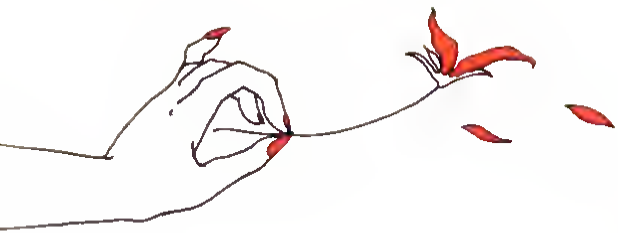

小学館
★★定価 360円
雑誌 45123-02
ISBN4-09-131302-7 C0279 ¥360E

FLOWER COMICS

フラワーコミックス

吉祥天女 2

吉田秋生

小学館
★★
FC-1302

Proudly Presents
Kisshou Tennyo
Yoshida Akimi
Volume 2
Credits:
Translator: Kololo
Editor: NightSwan
ProofReader: Catriona
Typesetter: NightSwan
QCers: Altilge, Synthoside & Catriona
art by Felesya

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Page 39, panel 7

Mitsumame is an old, popular Japanese dessert that is basically cubes of jelly served with fruits and sweet syrup. The ice cream in this case doesn't refer to a certain flavor of ice cream. It's just ice cream served with mitsumame.

Page 173, panel 1

So, because it'd look too cramped on the page, I'll put the translations for the signs here. It's nothing especially interesting or even important, but I don't skimp out things. Right... Enjoy. =)

On Sheets
Toono Construction

On Top Squares
Safety First

On Lower Squares
Toono Construction

On Sign
We apologize for any inconvenience you may experience during construction

Flower Comics

Auspicious Heavenly Maiden

2

VOL.2

Character Introductions

Toono Akira

Son of a very influential man in town. Ryou's cousin.

Toono Ryou

A high school student considered to be a bad boy His girlfriend is gang leader Imai Hisako.

Asai Yuiko

A quiet high school student. Fan of Sayoko.

Kanou Sayoko

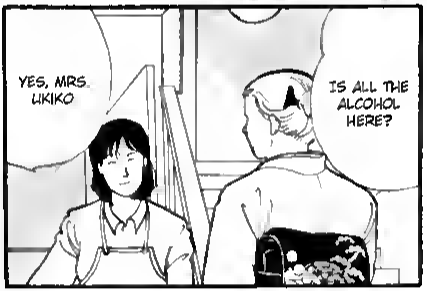
A beautiful transfer student wrapped in mystery. Seems to have lived in town until the age of five.

Summary

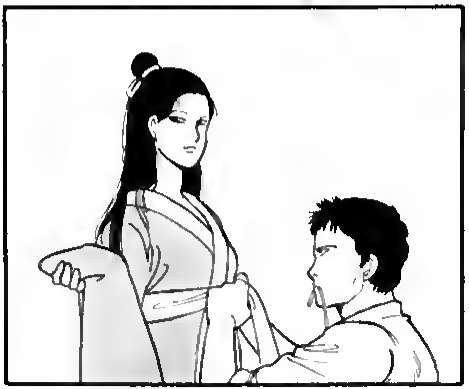
A transfer student in Yuiko's class, Kanou Sayoko, garnered popularity with her fellow students using her mysterious charms. Toono Ryou was the only one capable of quickly noticing her strange behavior, and he began observing her every move. One day, Sayoko was called to Mr. Nezu's office over a trivial matter, only to have a close call with sexual assault. Mr. Nezu, by the way, claims not to remember what happened during that time. Yuiko and her friends, who were standing outside the room at the time, were told not to talk about the incident so rumors didn't spread on the matter. However, Sayoko has been absent ever since that event. Several days later, Yuiko and her friends went to the Kanou household and were invited to a flower-viewing party. They set off, but what will happen?!

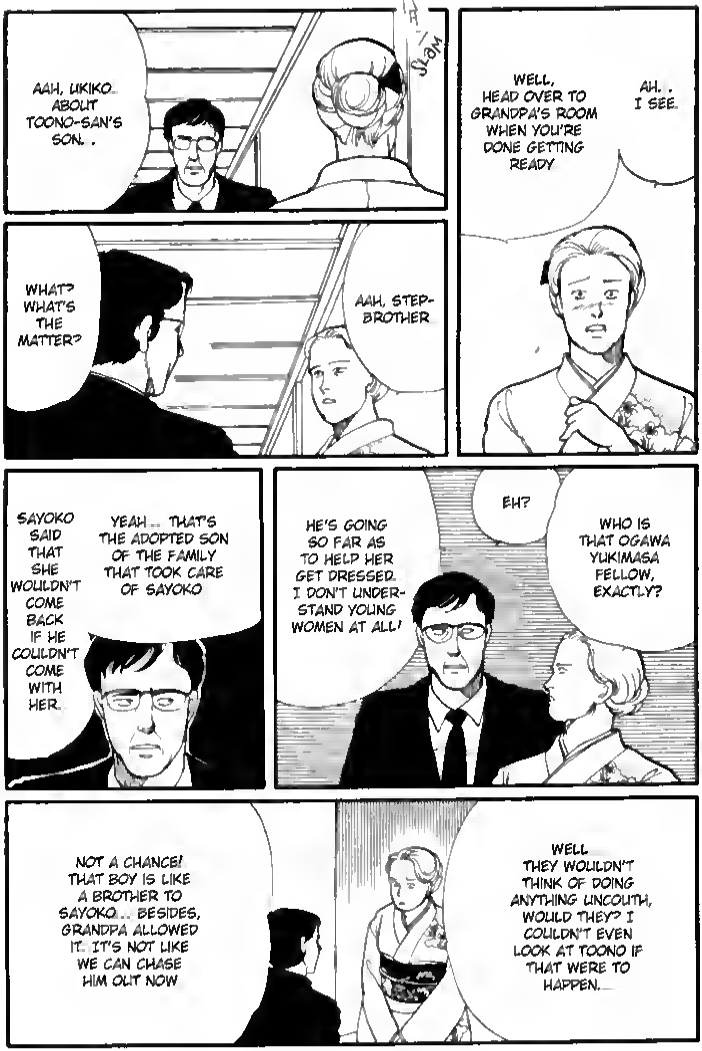
フラワーコミックス

SAYOKO-SAN, ARE YOU ALMOST READY...?

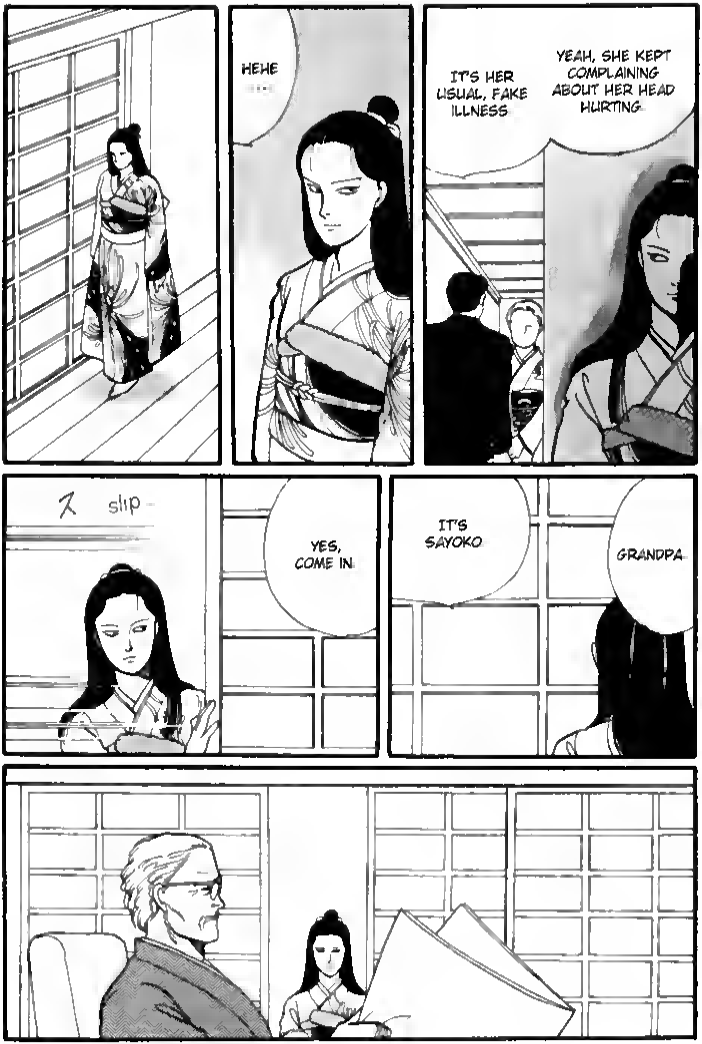

YES, MRS. UKIKO
IS ALL THE ALCOHOL HERE?

YES, AUNTIE, ALMOST




AAH, UKIKO... ABOUT TOONO-SAN'S SON..
SLAM
WELL, HEAD OVER TO GRANDPA'S ROOM WHEN YOU'RE DONE GETTING READY
AH.. I SEE.
WHAT? WHAT'S THE MATTER?
AAH, STEP-BROTHER
SAYOKO SAID THAT SHE WOULDN'T COME BACK IF HE COULDN'T COME WITH HER.
YEAH... THAT'S THE ADOPTED SON OF THE FAMILY THAT TOOK CARE OF SAYOKO
HE'S GOING SO FAR AS TO HELP HER GET DRESSED. I DON'T UNDERSTAND YOUNG WOMEN AT ALL!
EH?
WHO IS THAT OGAWA YUKIMASA FELLOW, EXACTLY?
NOT A CHANCE! THAT BOY IS LIKE A BROTHER TO SAYOKO... BESIDES, GRANDPA ALLOWED IT. IT'S NOT LIKE WE CAN CHASE HIM OUT NOW
WELL THEY WOULDN'T THINK OF DOING ANYTHING UNCOUTH, WOULD THEY? I COULDN'T EVEN LOOK AT TOONO IF THAT WERE TO HAPPEN....

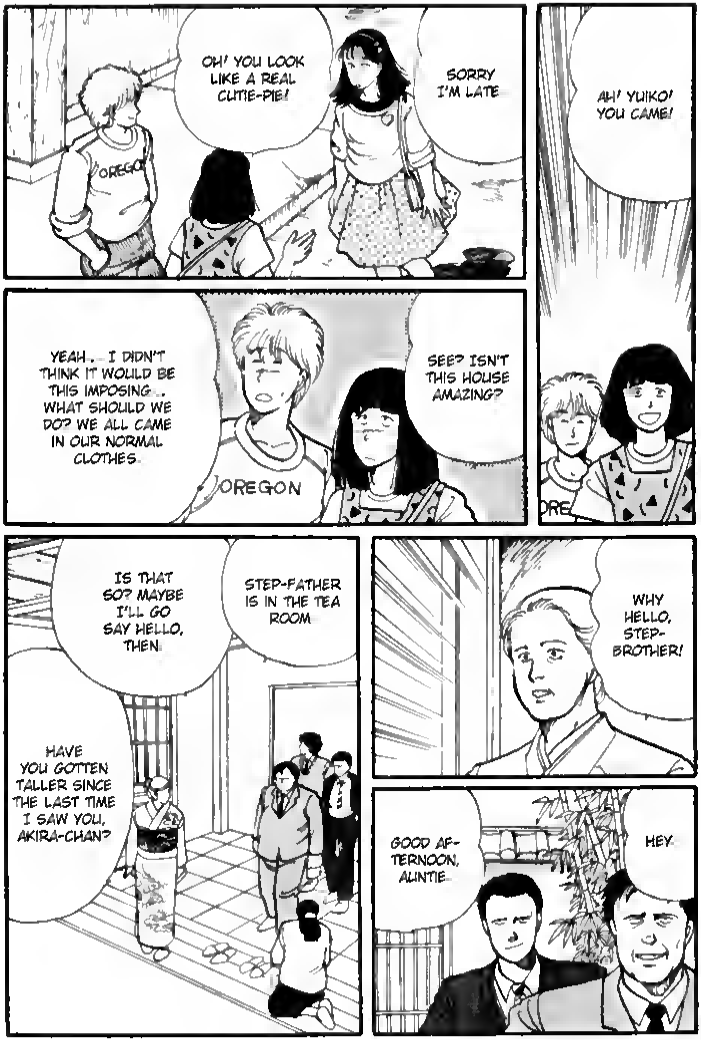
HOW DO I LOOK, FATHER?
OH? WHAT ARE YOU DOING, FATHER? AUNTIE?
I'M READY NOW.
1/10
9
Slam
YES... VERY PRETTY. IT SUITS YOU WELL.
.....
I'LL GO SAY HELLO TO GRANDPA.
HOW IS STEP-SISTER DOING?
IT'S SUCH A STRANGE FEELING. MAYBE IT'S BECAUSE I DIDN'T RAISE HER MYSELF, BUT I DON'T FEEL LIKE SHE'S MY DAUGHTER.


HEHE
IT'S HER USUAL, FAKE ILLNESS
YEAH, SHE KEPT COMPLAINING ABOUT HER HEAD HURTING
slip
YES, COME IN
IT'S SAYOKO
GRANDPA

.....
OOH, THAT'S VERY PRETTY. I THINK IT SUITS YOU WELL.

EVERY-ONE SAYS THAT
YOU LOOK LIKE YOUR DECEASED GRANDMA, WHEN SHE WAS YOUNG
GRANDMA WAS ALWAYS KIND TO ME, SO I WAS VERY SAD...
I REMEMBER THE TIME THAT GRANDMA PASSED AWAY VERY WELL.
YOU HAVE RETURNED TO THIS HOUSE. SURELY YOU'RE HAPPY ABOUT THAT, AS WELL
.....

WHAT'S THE MATTER, RYOU!? ARE YOU SICK? YOU'VE BEEN SILENT ALL DAY.
YES, THANK YOU.
HELLO. MRS. LIKIKO WILL BE OUT SHORTLY.
NO... IT'S NOTHING.
I NEVER SAID THAT!
HE SAID HE DOESN'T WANT TO GO TO SOMETHING THAT SMELLS AS MUCH OF OLD PEOPLE AS A "FLOWER-VIEWING" DOES
HE'S JUST SULKING, FATHER.
HEH HEH HEH... YES, AS FELLOW YOUNG PEOPLE...
ISN'T THE DAUGHTER HERE IN THE SAME GRADE AS YOU...? I'M SURE YOU ALL WILL FIND SOMETHING TO TALK ABOUT, AS FELLOW YOUNG PEOPLE.
WELL, I'M NOT NECESSARILY TELLING YOU TO HANG OUT WITH THE OLDER PEOPLE.

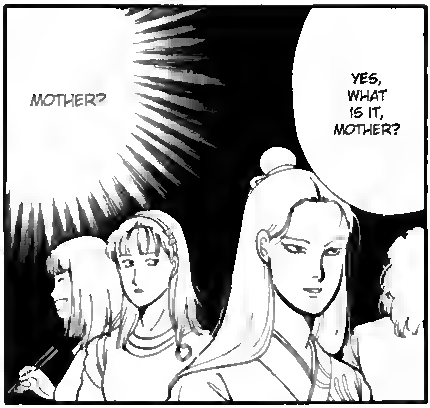

OH! YOU LOOK LIKE A REAL CUTIE-PIE!
SORRY I'M LATE
OREGON
AH! YUIKO! YOU CAME!
YEAH... I DIDN'T THINK IT WOULD BE THIS IMPOSING... WHAT SHOULD WE DO? WE ALL CAME IN OUR NORMAL CLOTHES.
SEE? ISN'T THIS HOUSE AMAZING?
OREGON
IS THAT SO? MAYBE I'LL GO SAY HELLO, THEN.
STEP-FATHER IS IN THE TEA ROOM
HAVE YOU GOTTEN TALLER SINCE THE LAST TIME I SAW YOU, AKIRA-CHAN?
WHY HELLO, STEP-BROTHER!
GOOD AF-TERNOON, ALINTIE.
HEY.

SHE WANTS TO LINK THE TWO HOUSEHOLDS SO THAT SHE DOESN'T HAVE TO GIVE UP HER ROLE AS THE WIDOW...
THE WOMAN MARRIED TO THE DECEASED OLDEST SON OF THE KANOU HOUSEHOLD. THE SISTER OF AKIRA'S MOTHER.
I SEE... SO THIS AUNT IS THE ONE RESPONSIBLE FOR SETTING EVERYTHING IN MOTION IN THE FIRST PLACE.
HELLO...
YES. UH...
DON'T YOU REMEMBER? IT'S RYOU. THE SON OF MY DECEASED UNCLE HIROSHI...
OH...? AND WHO IS THIS?
IT WOULD SEEM THAT SHE DOESN'T CARE FOR ME MUCH.
チラ glance
WELL... IS THAT RIGHT...? I SEE...
EH?
IT'S JUST A COINCIDENCE, BUT HE'S IN THE SAME CLASS AS YOUR SAYOKO-SAN.

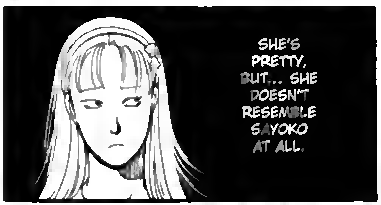
AH, TOONO-KUN!
YOU CAME I'M GLAD
OH...?
WHY ARE YOU SO QUIET?

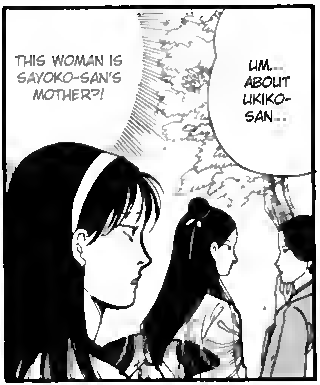
NICE TO MEET YOU...
HEY...
AH... THIS IS AKIRA, MY COUSIN
SAME HERE
YES. I INVITED THEM A PARTY FULL OF GRANDPA'S FRIENDS IS NO FUN, AFTER ALL.
FRIENDS?
YOUR FRIENDS ARE HERE, MISS.
AH. BRING THEM RIGHT OUT TO THE GARDEN, THEN.
...NOW THEN, I'M GOING TO GO AHEAD AND SHOW THESE TWO AROUND, THEN HEAD OUT TO THE GARDEN
I GOT PERMISSION FROM GRANDPA.
WELL... THAT WAS AWFULLY SELFISH OF YOU, SAYOKO-SAN...

THAT WAS IMPRESSIVE. SHE SHUT THAT NOISY AUNT UKIKO UP IN JUST ONE SENTENCE.
EH...?
DON'T YOU THINK HAVING YOUR HAIR DOWN SUITS YOU BETTER?
YOU LOOK VERY CUTE, YUIKO.
WOOOW! YOU LOOK GREAT, SAYOKO!
JUST LIKE A PRINCESS IN THE OLDEN TIMES!
OREGON
OH, DON'T TEASE ME!


MOTHER?
YES, WHAT IS IT, MOTHER?

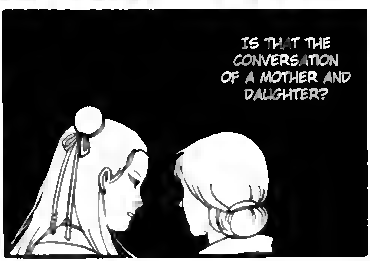
CAN I HAVE A MINUTE ...?
UM... SAYOKO-SAN

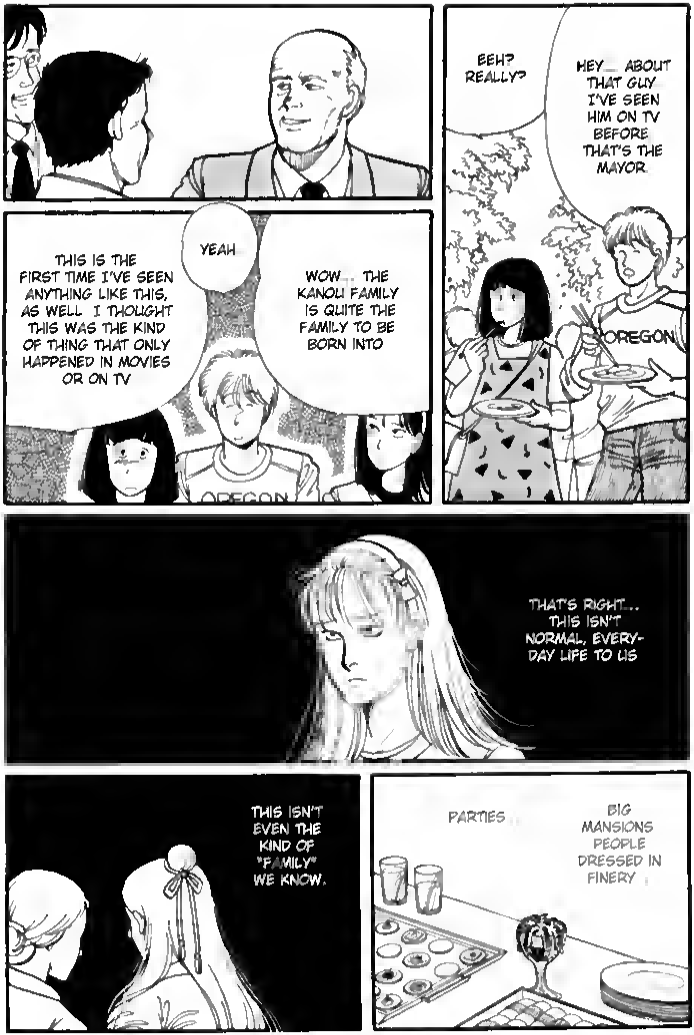

SHE'S PRETTY, BUT... SHE DOESN'T RESEMBLE SAYOKO AT ALL.

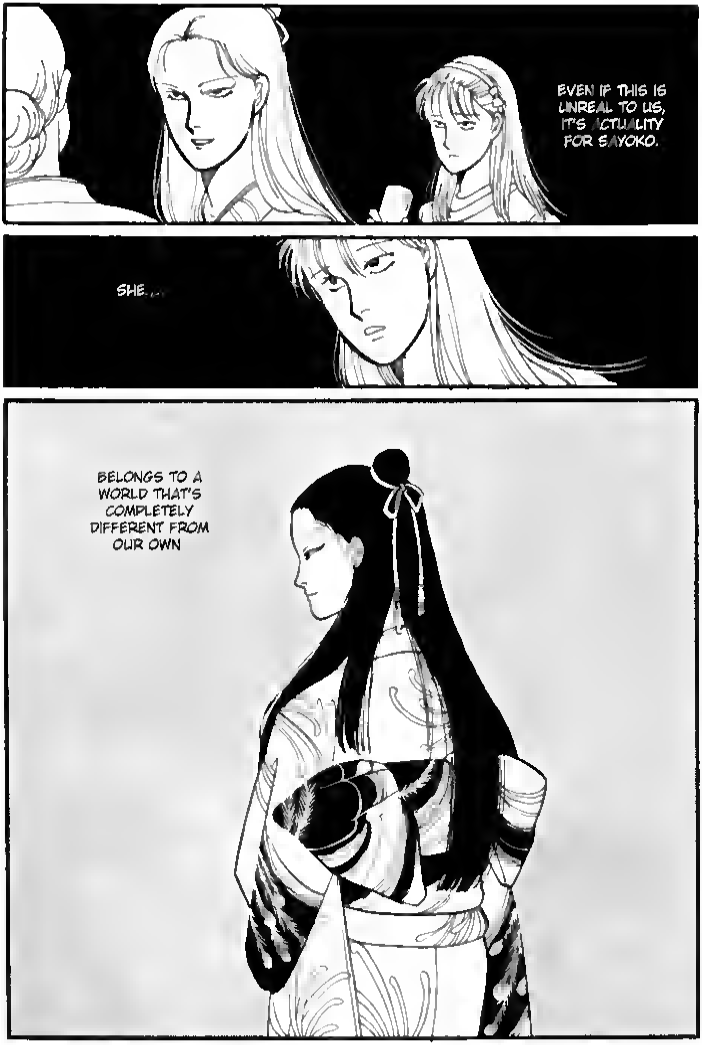

THIS WOMAN IS SAYOKO-SAN'S MOTHER?!
UM... ABOUT UKIKO-SAN...

PLUS, THEY TREAT EACH OTHER WITH SUCH RESERVE ...

"THEY'RE PRACTICALLY STRANGERS I LIVED AWAY FROM THEM FOR OVER TEN YEARS "


IS THAT THE CONVERSATION OF A MOTHER AND DAUGHTER?


BEH? REALLY?
HEY... ABOUT THAT GUY I'VE SEEN HIM ON TV BEFORE THAT'S THE MAYOR
OREGON
YEAH
THIS IS THE FIRST TIME I'VE SEEN ANYTHING LIKE THIS, AS WELL I THOUGHT THIS WAS THE KIND OF THING THAT ONLY HAPPENED IN MOVIES OR ON TV
WOW... THE KANOU FAMILY IS QUITE THE FAMILY TO BE BORN INTO
OREGON
THAT'S RIGHT... THIS ISN'T NORMAL, EVERY-DAY LIFE TO US
THIS ISN'T EVEN THE KIND OF "FAMILY" WE KNOW.
PARTIES
BIG MANSIONS
PEOPLE DRESSED IN FINERY

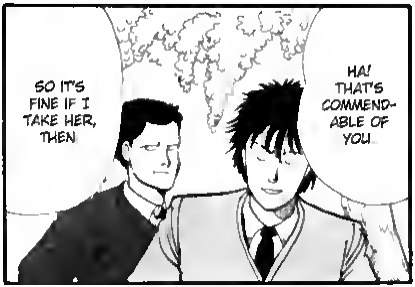

EVEN IF THIS IS UNREAL TO US, IT'S ACTUALITY FOR SAYOKO.
SHE...
BELONGS TO A WORLD THAT'S COMPLETELY DIFFERENT FROM OUR OWN

THEN ON THE LEFT IS THE MIDDLE CHILD, YUKIKO. SHE GOT ENGAGED ONLY RECENTLY.
THE ONE ON THE RIGHT IS THE OLDEST, YOUKO. SHE MARRIED THE SON OF THE PRESIDENT OF A LARGE BANK.
THAT'S SAYOKO'S MOM AND HER TWO OLDER SISTERS.
THE MOTHER IS ONE THING, BUT DOESN'T IT FEEL LIKE SHE SUCKED THE LIFE RIGHT OUT OF HER SISTERS AS WELL?
WHAT DO YOU THINK? ISN'T IT STRANGE THAT A MOTHER, DAUGHTER, AND SIBLINGS CAN LOOK SO VERY DIFFERENT?
.....
SHE COMES WITH HUNDREDS OF MILLIONS IN FOREST PROPERTY, AFTER ALL.
EVEN IF SHE'S STRONG-MINDED, IT MAKES GOOD SENSE TO GET WITH A BEAUTY LIKE THAT.

. . .YOU'RE GOING TO BECOME A STUDHORSE?

THAT'S ONE FINE WOMAN...
I'VE MADE UP MY MIND, RYOU!

YEAH. I DON'T MIND IF IT COMES TO THAT.

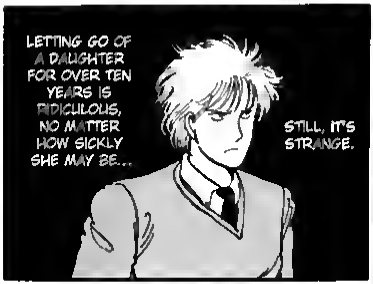

SO IT'S FINE IF I TAKE HER, THEN.
HA! THAT'S COMMEND-ABLE OF YOU.

WHY ARE YOU ASKING ME?
DO WHAT-EVER YOU WANT.

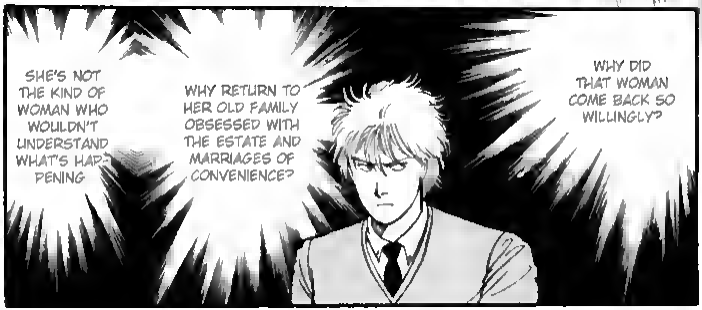
IT'S FINE, RIGHT, RYOU?

OK.
DON'T YOU TOUCH HER, RYOU.
WHAT...?
IF YOU HELP ME
SHE WILL.
I WONDER IF SHE'LL BE YOURS SO EASILY.
.....?
I'M GOING TO SAY HELLO TO GRANDPA.
SEE YOU LATER, THEN.

T/N They're at a flower-viewing party, he's making horrible sakura metaphors... Get it?!



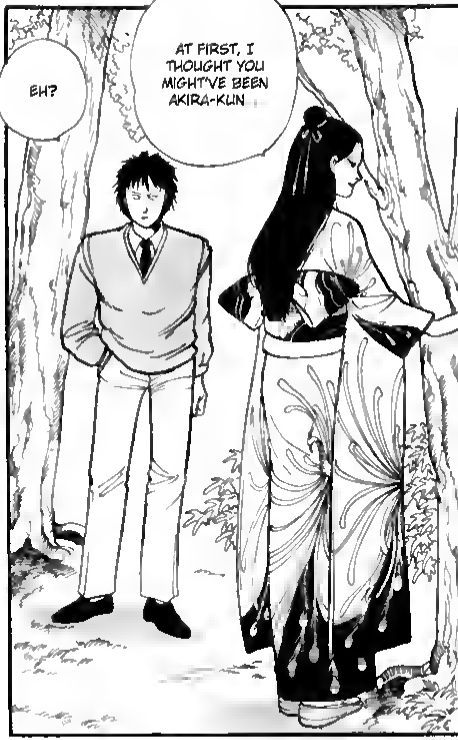
A FLOWER THAT BLOOMED INTO GARISH ATTRACTIVENESS BY SUCKING THE NUTRIENTS FROM TWO OTHERS...
...I CAN'T BELIEVE SHE BLOOMED ON THE SAME BRANCH.


SHE'S NOT THE KIND OF WOMAN WHO WOULDN'T UNDERSTAND WHAT'S HAPPENING
WHY RETURN TO HER OLD FAMILY OBSESSED WITH THE ESTATE AND MARRIAGES OF CONVENIENCE?
WHY DID THAT WOMAN COME BACK SO WILLINGLY?

I FEEL BAD FOR THE MOUSE
THAT HINT OF PERVERSION ENDED UP BEING HIS RUIN
WHAT IS IT? IS THERE SOMETHING ON MY FACE?
I HAD NO IDEA!
MY! IS THAT SO?!
DID YOU KNOW THAT?
BY THE WAY, HE'S MARRIED TO THE DAUGHTER OF OUR SCHOOL'S CHAIRMAN.
WELL, EVEN TEACHERS ARE STUPID MEN AT THEIR CORE
I CAN'T BELIEVE HE DID SOMETHING LIKE THAT .
YES ..
NOW, NOT EVEN THE CHAIRMAN CAN OPPOSE GRANDPA.
OF ALL PEOPLE, IT WAS THE CHAIRMAN'S SON-IN-LAW WHO PUT HIS HANDS ON OLD MAN KANOU'S GRANDDAUGHTER.
.....

WHY DID HE PUT HIS HANDS ON YOU...?
KNOWING ALL THAT,
.....
COULDN'T SAY...
WHY DON'T YOU ASK HIM YOURSELF?
AH HAHA.. THAT'S TRUE YOU'VE GOT ME THERE
RYOU-KUN

I'M GLAD YOU'RE NOT AKIRA-KUN.


EH?
AT FIRST, I THOUGHT YOU MIGHT'VE BEEN AKIRA-KUN.

WHAT?
EH..?!

I.. WOULD..
IF YOU WERE AKIRA-KUN...

WHOOSH WHOOSH WHOOSH WHOOSH
!
LATER, RYOU-KUN!
OH, WHAT A STRONG WIND!

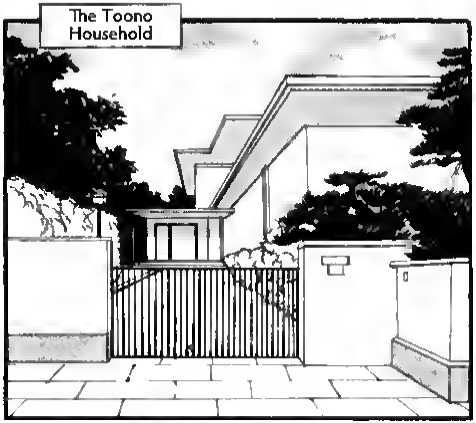
WAIT!
SAYOKO?!
.....

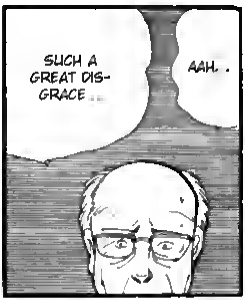
COLDS THIS TIME OF YEAR ARE JUST AWFUL. I HEARD THAT MR. NEZU'S COLD WAS COMPLICATED BY SOME OTHER DISEASE AND HE HAD TO BE HOSPITALIZED
I'M SO UN-LUCKY IT'S NOT EVEN WINTER
YES. ONE WAY OR ANOTHER.
I HEARD YOU HAD A COLD! ARE YOU ALL BETTER?
OH! LONG TIME NO SEE!
HE HAS MY SYM-PATHIES ...
I SEE...

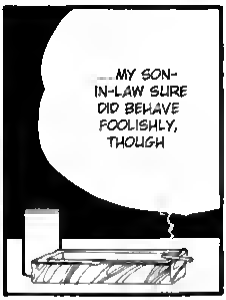
I KNOW FOR SURE THAT SA-YOKO'S FAMILY IS RICH.
FROM THE PARTY RECENTLY,
HURT OVER WHAT'S BEEN DONE TO HER...?
ISN'T SAYOKO
現国
WHAT ARE YOU THINKING, EXACTLY?
SAYOKO ...
And then, recently...
BUT DOES BEING RICH MEAN THAT YOU THINK DIFFERENTLY AS WELL?
Keep Out!
IT WOULD SEEM THAT SHE DESPISES ME... SHE WON'T MEET UP WITH ME NO MATTER HOW MANY TIMES I CALL
THEN WHY DON'T YOU BE A REAL MAN GIVE IT A REST ALREADY?!
NOT A CHANCE! WHY DO I HAVE TO INVITE HER OUT?! DO IT YOURSELF!

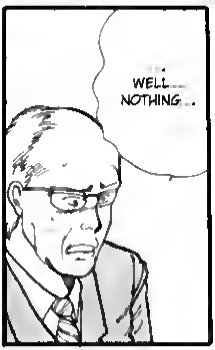
...HOW ABOUT IT? HAVE YOU TALKED TO SAHARA YOSHIKO SINCE THEN?
!
HEY, NOW. NO NEED TO BE SO COLD, YOU KNOW? DIDN'T I HELP YOU OUT WHEN YOU NEEDED IT?
...FINE. JUST THIS ONCE.
...
YEAH! YOU SURE AS HELL DO!
THANK YOU! I OWE YOU ONE

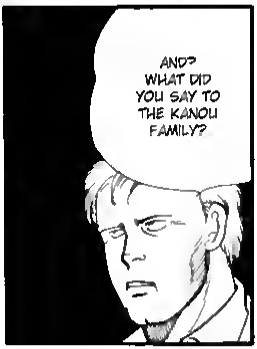
I CAN'T SAY WHETHER SHE'LL ACTUALLY GO OR NOT!
BUT ALL I'M DOING IS CALLING HER OUT!
SHE'LL COME.
W-WHAT?!
SHE'LL COME. SO LONG AS SHE HEARS YOUR NAME.
I'M COUNTING ON YOU, BROTHER.
TOMOR-ROW AFTER SCHOOL.


The Toono Household


SUCH A GREAT DIS-GRACE...
AAH..


...MY SON-IN-LAW SURE DID BEHAVE FOOLISHLY, THOUGH


...WELL... NOTHING..


AND? WHAT DID YOU SAY TO THE KANOU FAMILY?

NO MATTER HOW MANY TIMES I'VE TRIED TO CONTACT THEM SINCE THEN, THEY'LL SIMPLY HAVE NOTHING TO DO WITH ME.
I WENT OVER THERE TO APOLOGIZE, BUT I WAS BASICALLY TURNED AWAY AT THE DOOR
WHAT?
YOU COULD SAY THE SAME THING, UNDER THE CIRCUMSTANCES. A TEACHER ATTEMPTING TO RAPE A FEMALE STUDENT IS THE KIND OF SCANDAL THAT COULD THREATEN THE CONTINUED EXISTENCE OF YOUR SCHOOL!
WHAT ARE THEY THINKING?
HMM... I DON'T GET IT..
PERHAPS.. THEY ARE AFRAID OF STRANGE RUMORS SPREADING SINCE THEIR DAUGHTER IS ABOUT TO BE MARRIED.
click
WELL, ALL WE CAN DO IS TO WAIT AND SEE WHAT HAPPENS FOR NOW
.....

THE MAN WHO JUST LEFT WAS THAT THE SCHOOL'S CHAIRMAN?
creak
THAT MAN'S A REAL GOOD-FOR-NOTHING. SCANDALS ARE TABOO IN THE SCHOOLING WORLD, YOU SEE
MAYBE
DID YOU HEAR US?
OOH? IS THAT SO?
OUR CONSTRUCTION COMPANY WAS SUPPOSED TO BE THE ONE TO TAKE THAT PROJECT ON, THOUGH. .
..IN THE WORST CASE SCENARIO, HE'LL HAVE TO SHELVE THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE NEW MIDDLE SCHOOL

flomp
THE LAND FOR OUR APARTMENT BUILDING CONSTRUCTION IS IN THE SAME CATEGORY... RIGHT?
THEIR OLD MAN IS GOING TO USE THIS WHOLE SITUATION AS AN EXCUSE TO GIVE US TROUBLE... ALL THANKS TO THAT IRRITATING PERVERT OF A TEACHER...
AT ANY RATE, THE PLANNED BUILDING AREA IS ON KANOU FAMILY LAND.
I HEAR RUMORS FROM TIME TO TIME.
. LIKE WHAT?
YEAH... HOW DID YOU KNOW?
...THAT'S JUST A RUMOR
UNDER THE GUISE OF COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT.
THINGS LIKE... YOU'RE CONSPIRING WITH THE MAYOR TO SEIZE KANOU FAMILY REAL ESTATE

squeak
HEY!
MORNING!
GOOD MOOORN-ING!
THE P.E SUPPLY ROOM...?
☆There's something I want to talk to you about in private! Wait in the P.E. Supply Room after school today (4:00 PM) I'm on cleaning duty, so please go in ahead of me
From Ryou
P.S It's a mess back there so watch your step
A LETTER... WHEN DID THAT GET IN HERE?
SPEAKING OF WHICH, THAT WAS A PRETTY THOUGHTFUL POSTSCRIPT FOR HIM.

.....
RYOU..
AAH... THIS ISN'T FUN FOR ME IN THE LEAST...
...WILL YOU STOP BY MY PLACE ON THE WAY HOME TODAY?
NO ONE WILL BE THERE...
HEY, HISAKO! DO YOU NEED SOME-THING?

FORGET IT, THEN!
...I THOUGHT YOU MIGHT SAY THAT.
TODAY, HUH...? NO, I CAN'T REALLY DO THAT TODAY...
TODAY?
HEEEY, YOU HAVIN' MARITAL TROUBLES, TOONO?!
whistle whistle
NOT REALLY!
IT DOESN'T MEAN A THING TO ME IF THAT'S HOW YOU REALLY FEEL!
HEY, WAIT...! WHAT ARE YOU SO ANGRY FOR? DID I DO SOMETHING WRONG?
Riiing キーン
DON'T YOU GIVE ME THAT LINE! 'I'LL CALL YOU LATER' IS A FAVORITE SAYING OF YOURS, IS IT NOT?! I TOLD YOU TO FORGET IT!
ANYWAY, I'LL GIVE YOU A CALL LATER OK?

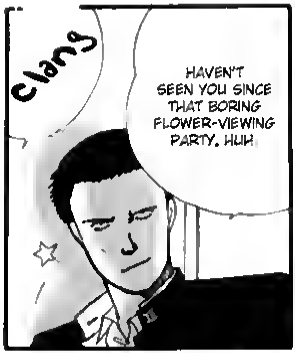
snicker
HEH HEH HEH YOU GOT CHEWED OUT!
Gah hahaha!
Bwah hahaha!
.....
YOU FINALLY GOT PUNISHED FOR YOUR FLIRTING!
WHAT IS IT, MATSUMOTO-KUN? YOUR OLD FRIEND HERE IS PISSED OFF RIGHT NOW!
TOONO, WAIT!
Quiet in the hallways!
HEEEY!
TCHE!
I REALLY DON'T UNDERSTAND THE WAY WOMEN THINK. I'M LOSING CONFIDENCE.
YEAH. .
WHAT'S THE MATTER? IS YOUR PASSION FOR WOMEN JUST NOT WORKING OUT FOR YOU TODAY?

*See notes page

I NEED MORE TRAIN!...
Kyaa! Kyaa!
chatter chatter
MY TROUBLES ARE CAUSED BY WOMEN, BASICALLY
?
THERE ARE ALL KINDS OF WOMEN... I GUESS
I SAY WE GET MITSUMAME ICE CREAM ON THE WAY HOME!
LET'S GO, SAYOKO!
LATER!
BYE!

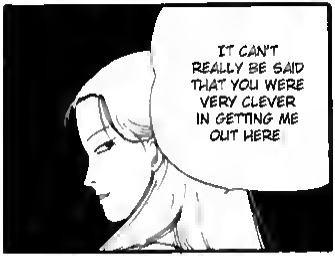
GUESS WE CAN'T DO ANYTHING ABOUT THAT...
I'M SORRY INVITE ME AGAIN SOME-TIME...
EEEH? IS THAT RIGHT?
I HAVE TO WAIT FOR SOMEBODY
AH, I'M SORRY I KIND OF HAVE PLANS TODAY
YOU REALLY ARE STRAIGHT-FORWARD...
YES, I DO
...SAY, DO YOU THINK THAT THE PERSON SHE HAS TO WAIT FOR IS TOONO-KUN?
THE P E SUPPLY ROOM... I'M PRETTY SURE IT'S BEHIND THE GYM...
snap

.....
I SEE "WATCH YOUR STEP." HUH?
THIS PLACE IS AWFULLY MOLDY...
Creak
OH, TOONO-KUN! YOU'RE EARL...
scrape

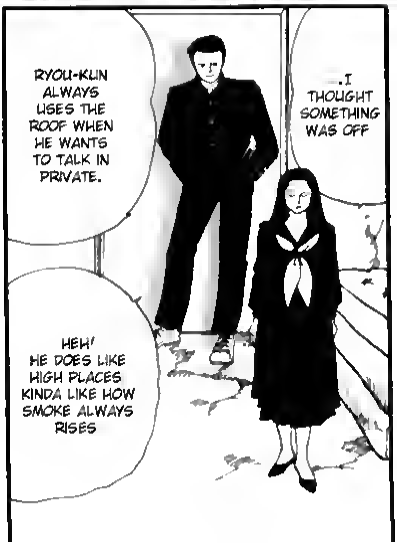

Clang
HAVEN'T SEEN YOU SINCE THAT BORING FLOWER-VIEWING PARTY. HUH

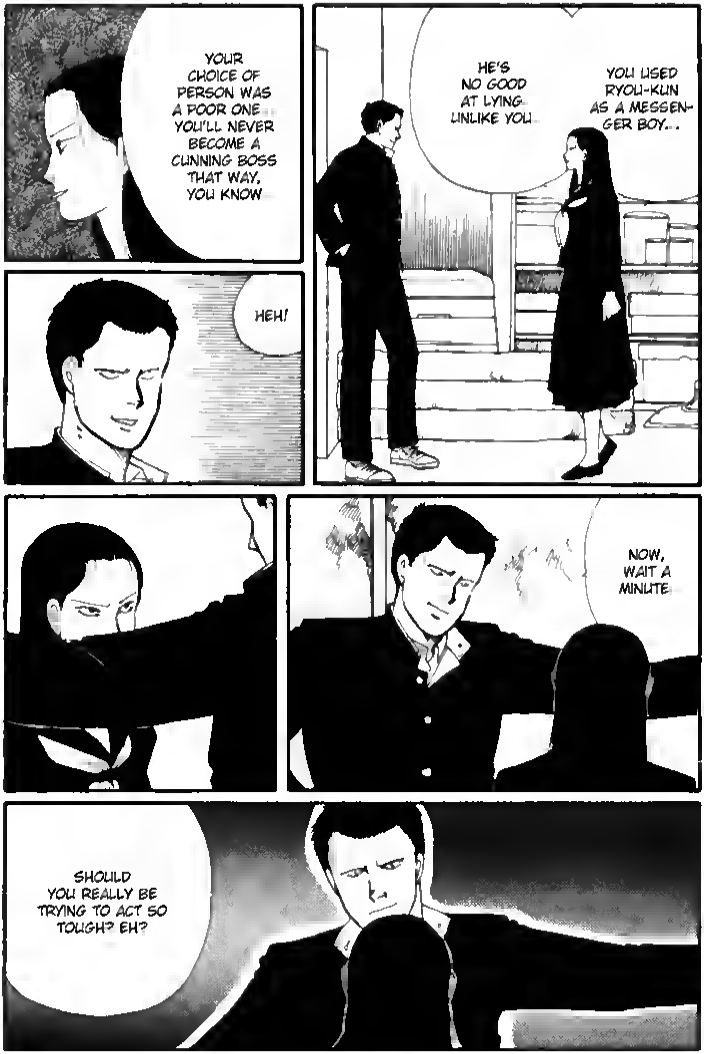
WRONG TOONO. I'M AFRAID

.....


IT CAN'T REALLY BE SAID THAT YOU WERE VERY CLEVER IN GETTING ME OUT HERE

WHAT?!


RYOU-KUN ALWAYS USES THE ROOF WHEN HE WANTS TO TALK IN PRIVATE.
.I THOUGHT SOMETHING WAS OFF
HEH! HE DOES LIKE HIGH PLACES KINDA LIKE HOW SMOKE ALWAYS RISES


YOUR CHOICE OF PERSON WAS A POOR ONE... YOU'LL NEVER BECOME A CUNNING BOSS THAT WAY, YOU KNOW...
HEH!
HE'S NO GOOD AT LYING...UNLIKE YOU...
YOU USED RYOU-KUN AS A MESSENGER BOY...
NOW, WAIT A MINUTE...
SHOULD YOU REALLY BE TRYING TO ACT SO TOUGH? EH?

NO MATTER WHAT KIND OF FACADE YOUR FAMILY IS PUTTING UP, THE TRUTH IS IT'S IN DIRE STRAITS, IS IT NOT?
YOUR GRANDPA'S ENTERPRISES WILL GO BANKRUPT AT THIS RATE— UNLESS HE LIQUIDATES SOME OF HIS REAL ESTATE.. THAT IS.
THAT HAS NOTHING TO DO WITH ME.
DO YOU REALLY BELIEVE WHAT YOU'RE SAYING? I THOUGHT YOU WERE A SMARTER GIRL THAN THAT.
WHY DO YOU THINK THAT YOU, WHO WAS ONCE ADOPTED OUT, HAVE BEEN BROUGHT BACK INTO THE FAMILY? EH?
IT WAS ALL PLANNED OUT BY AUNT LIKIKO AND MY FATHER— ALL THEY HAD TO DO WAS GET YOUR PARENTS ON BOARD.

YOU CAN'T DO A DAMN THING
WHAT CAN YOU DO ABOUT IT?!
...SHOULD YOU REALLY BE LAYING SO MANY OF YOUR CARDS OUT ON THE TABLE?
IT WAS NEVER MY INTENTION TO GET YOU TO LIKE ME.
YEAH, I SURE AM.
...YOU'RE PLAYING DIRTY.
WHY ARE YOU STAYING QUIET? EH?
WELL, WHAT'S THE MATTER? SAY SOMETHING
WHAT'S CERTAIN, THOUGH, IS THAT YOU'RE GOING TO BE A GOOD GIRL AND LET ME DO AS I PLEASE
YOU CAN EVEN HATE ME FOR ALL I CARE, IF THAT'S YOUR THING.
...BECAUSE IT'S JUST AS YOU SAY

THERE'S NOT A SINGLE THING I CAN DO.
HAVE YOU COME TO THE REALIZATION THAT YOU'VE GOT TO TRY AND MAKE NICE WITH ME?
HEH! SEEMS LIKE YOU'VE SMARTENED UP A LITTLE.
!

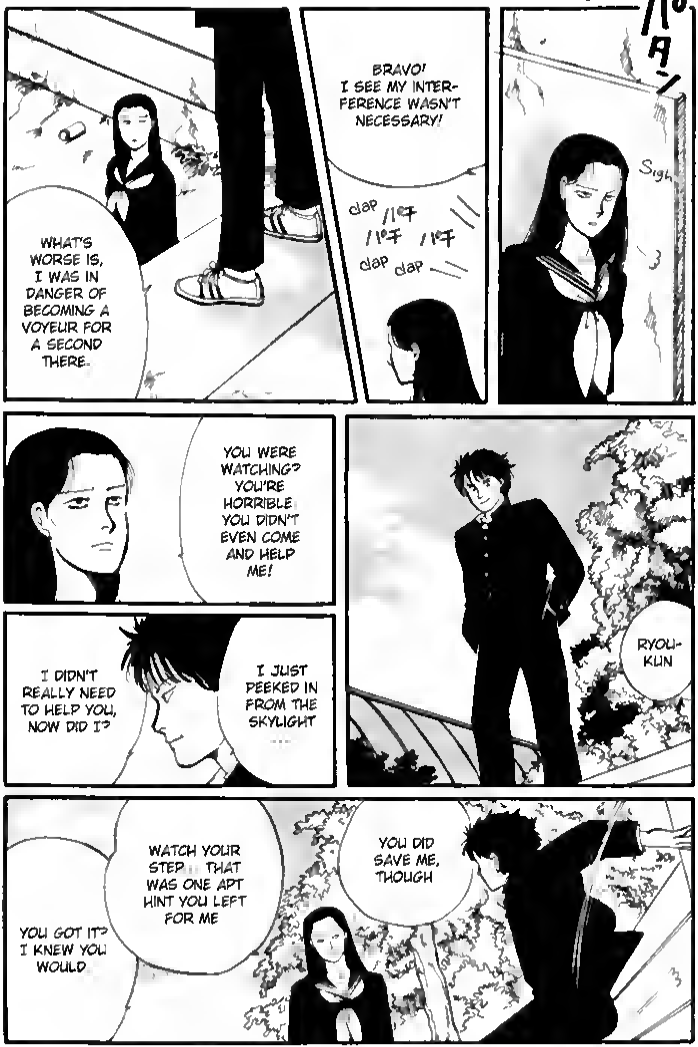
IF IT WENT PUBLIC, I'D SAY THE BRUNT OF THE PUNISHMENT WOULD GO TO THE WOMAN.
THAT IT DOES.
IS THE HEIR TO TOONO CONSTRUCTION GOING TO SEXUALLY ASSAULT A WOMAN ON SCHOOL GROUNDS? SOUNDS LIKE QUITE THE SCANDAL.
SINCE IT'S THE SECOND TIME THIS HAS HAPPENED, I COULD SAY THAT YOU'RE THE ONE WHO TEMPTED ME INTO IT.
THERE'S THE MOUSE'S CASE, AS WELL..
BESIDES, TODAY IS WEDNESDAY. THE ONLY CLUB HOLDING MEETINGS IS THE CULTURAL CLUB.
UNFORTU-NATELY FOR YOU . THE KENDO CLUB IS CURRENTLY HOLDING AN INVITATIONAL TOURNAMENT IN THE GYMNASIUM.
...I'LL SCREAM
IN OTHER WORDS, NOT A SINGLE PERSON WILL BE HEADING OUT THIS WAY.

I SEE YOU FINALLY UNDERSTAND YOUR SITUATION.
...SO YOU'VE CALCULATED THIS DOWN TO THE VERY LAST DETAIL...? I WOULD EXPECT NO LESS.
I SAID YOU'RE A TERRIBLE KISSER.
!?
...WHAT A TERRIBLE KISS...

DON'T MOVE, AKIRA-KUN
U...!
I FULLY UNDERSTAND YOUR WAY OF DOING THINGS. YOU LAID OUT EVERY LAST ONE OF YOUR CARDS, AFTER ALL.
.....
JUST AS I SUSPECTED YOU'LL NEVER MAKE A SMART BUSINESSMAN.
A TRUMP CARD IS SOMETHING YOU SAVE FOR THE VERY LAST.
SO IT WOULD SEEM.
LOOKS LIKE WE END IN A DRAW THIS TIME AROUND.
ALRIGHT, I GET IT.

I WON'T FORGET THIS
THIS IS THE FIRST TIME I'VE BEEN MADE A FOOL OF BY A WOMAN... NO, BY ANYBODY...
JUST REMEMBER,
WELL, SEE YA.
I'LL SHOW YOU.
YOU GOT THAT? I ADMIT YOU'RE PRETTY BRAVE, BUT EVEN THAT HAS ITS LIMITS
.....
Aomori Apples
Fragile
Fragile

T/N: Aomori is a city in the northern part of the main island of Japan.

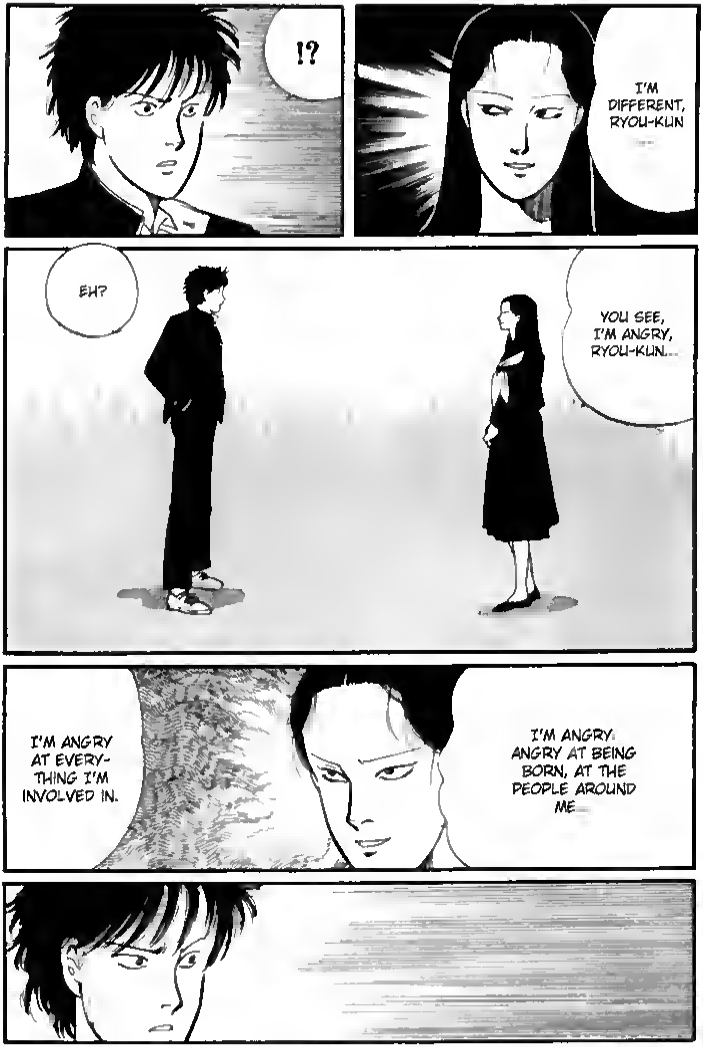

WHAT'S WORSE IS, I WAS IN DANGER OF BECOMING A VOYEUR FOR A SECOND THERE.
BRAVO! I SEE MY INTERFERENCE WASN'T NECESSARY!
clap
clap clap clap
CLOSE
Sigh
YOU WERE WATCHING? YOU'RE HORRIBLE YOU DIDN'T EVEN COME AND HELP ME!
I JUST PEEKED IN FROM THE SKYLIGHT ...
I DIDN'T REALLY NEED TO HELP YOU, NOW DID I?
RYOU-KUN
YOU DID SAVE ME, THOUGH
WATCH YOUR STEP... THAT WAS ONE APT HINT YOU LEFT FOR ME
YOU GOT IT? I KNEW YOU WOULD

I SEE...
I'M CERTAINLY NOT SAYING ANYTHING... YOU JUST READ TOO MUCH INTO MY LETTER, RIGHT?
BUT WON'T THAT MAKE YOUR POSITION WORSE IF AKIRA-KUN WERE TO FIND OUT...?
YOU SHOULD BE SURE TO WATCH YOUR BACK, THOUGH. YOU REALLY GOT AKIRA GOING THIS TIME.
HE MIGHT HAVE BEEN MESSING WITH YOU JUST FOR FUN UP UNTIL THIS POINT, BUT HE'S GOING TO TRACK YOU DOWN WITH EVERYTHING HE'S GOT NOW.
...AND YOU DO, RYOU-KUN
I'M NOT MESSING AROUND!
OH, SCARY...!
YOU DON'T KNOW WHAT KIND OF MAN HE IS!

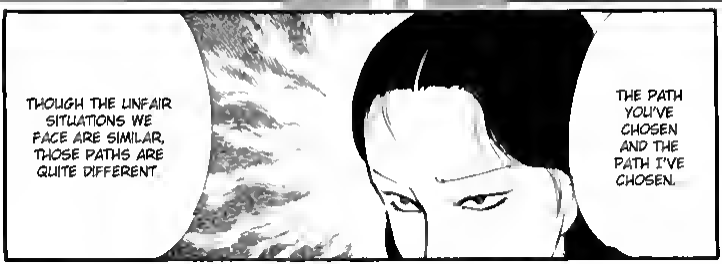
I SEE... SO THAT'S WHY YOU'RE ALWAYS HANGING AROUND EACH OTHER LIKE BROTHERS
.....
I'VE LIVED WITH HIM FROM THE AGE OF NINE
THE REASON AKIRA WON'T LEAVE ME ALONE
IS BE-CAUSE HE HATES ME
I CAME TO THAT REALIZATION UPON ENTER-ING MIDDLE SCHOOL
ME AND MY SISTER WERE TAKEN IN BY MY UNCLE AFTER OUR PARENTS DIED IN AN ACCIDENT
MY AUNT AND UNCLE TOOK GOOD CARE OF US, AND AKIRA WAS ALWAYS KIND AS WELL... ON THE SURFACE, AT LEAST

I WAS STILL A KID AT THE TIME, SO I DIDN'T REALLY UNDERSTAND I TRIED GETTING GOOD GRADES AND ALL THAT IN A BID TO GET HER TO LIKE ME...
PLUS, AS I GOT OLDER, MY AUNT'S ATTITUDE BECAME INCREASINGLY DISTANT... WELL, THAT SORT OF THING HAPPENS ALL THE TIME, THOUGH
...HOWEVER, I GRADUALLY CAME TO THE REALIZATION THAT AKIRA FELT NO FRIENDSHIP TOWARDS ME
WHEN I LET MY GRADES SLIP, MY AUNT STARTED ACTING KINDLY TOWARDS ME AGAIN, AS THOUGH NOTHING HAD EVER HAPPENED
THE POINT WHERE I REALIZED THAT MY EFFORTS WERE HAVING THE OPPOSITE EFFECT WAS IN MY THIRD YEAR OF MIDDLE SCHOOL
YOU COULD CALL IT MY SECRET TO SUCCESS
I MAY EVEN MANAGE TO GET A JOB USING UNCLE'S CONNECTIONS
WELL, SO LONG AS I LAY LOW, THEY'LL LET ME GO TO COLLEGE
HEH HEH! THAT'S WHY I DON'T PARTICULARLY CARE FOR THEM

EH?
THAT'S A LIE, RYOU-KUN
THAT'S A LIE.
WHY WORK SO HARD AT HOLDING YOUR-SELF BACK?
YOU'RE THE KIND OF PERSON WHOSE TEMPER IS MUCH, MUCH WORSE THAN ALL THAT.
!


!?
I'M DIFFERENT, RYOU-KUN
EH?
YOU SEE, I'M ANGRY, RYOU-KUN...
I'M ANGRY AT EVERY-THING I'M INVOLVED IN.
I'M ANGRY. ANGRY AT BEING BORN, AT THE PEOPLE AROUND ME...

YOU COULD EVEN SAY I'M CURSED...
IT'S THESE FEELINGS THAT MAKE ME ACT THE WAY I DO.


THE PATH YOU'VE CHOSEN AND THE PATH I'VE CHOSEN.
THOUGH THE UNFAIR SITUATIONS WE FACE ARE SIMILAR, THOSE PATHS ARE QUITE DIFFERENT.

gulp
.....

AH HA...! YOU'RE TERRIFYING
BUT ANYWAY, YOU REALLY SHOULD WATCH YOUR BACK. AKIRA IS VENGEFUL I'M AS CLOSE TO HIM AS A BROTHER, SO I SHOULD KNOW
OK.. THANKS
BUT WHAT SHOULD I DO TO WATCH MY BACK?
EH...? WELL, YOU... SHOULDN'T WALK AROUND ALONE AND STUFF...
A MAN WOULD THINK THAT!
"DEFENSE" FOR A MAN AND "DEFENSE" FOR A WOMAN ARE TWO DIFFERENT THINGS, RYOU-KUN
THEN AGAIN, SO IS "OF-FENSE".

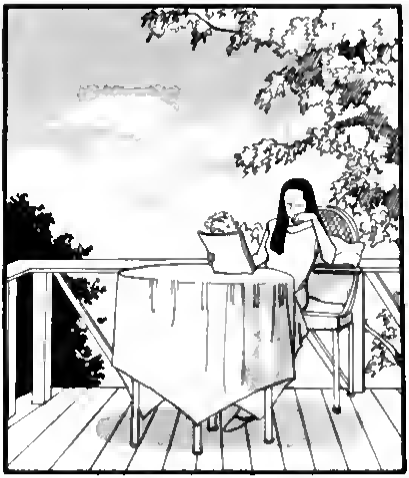
.....
"WHY WORK SO HARD AT HOLDING YOURSELF BACK?"
"YOU'RE THE KIND OF PERSON WHOSE TEMPER IS MUCH, MUCH WORSE THAN ALL THAT."
SHE'S A TERRIFYING WOMAN
WHO KNOWS HOW TO STRIKE RIGHT WHERE IT HURTS
SIGH...
I'M GETTING TOO DAMN ANXIOUS.

OOSAWA?!
RYOU!
LOOKS LIKE I JUST MISSED HER
EH?
THAT WAS FASTER THAN I THOUGHT. YOU FEELING BETTER ALREADY?
YEAH
WHAT, YOU'VE BEEN DISCHARGED FROM THE HOSPITAL?!
OOSAWA
AKIRA TOLD ME THAT KANOU SAYOKO WAS OUT HERE

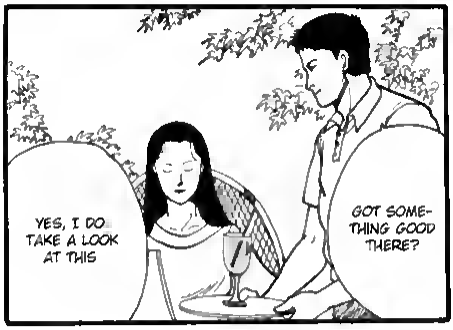
YEAH! I KNOW THAT!
WAS BECAUSE YOU GUYS FELL FOR HISAKO'S SWEET TALK!
..THE ONLY REASON YOU GOT HURT
ギク
gulp
EH...?! NO, I... JUST CAME OUT FOR A SMOKE.
stare
MORE IMPORTANTLY, WHAT ARE YOU DOING OUT HERE?
...ANYWAY, I WON'T BE SATISFIED UNTIL I TEACH THAT WOMAN A LESSON.
WELL, I THOUGHT I MIGHT TRY SWITCHING IT UP EVERY ONCE IN A WHILE...
OOOH...? AND I ALWAYS CONSIDERED THE ROOF TO BE YOUR ONLY STOMPING GROUNDS...
Phew! That was close

IT'S NONE OF YOUR BUSINESS
...WHAT'RE YOU GOING TO DO?
AH...
IT WOULD SEEM THAT THAT WOMAN MADE A FOOL OF AKIRA AS WELL.
YEAH?! AND WHAT DO I CARE IF THAT HAPPENS?! I'M PREPARED TO TAKE THAT RISK!
STOP THIS RIGHT NOW! YOU TRY SOMETHING AND I GUARANTEE YOU THE POLICE WILL GET INVOLVED!
THIS IS BAD HE'S GONE COMPLETELY INSANE

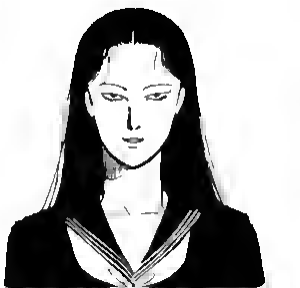
DON'T GET IN MY WAY, RYOU.
I WAS CARELESS LAST TIME BECAUSE I WAS CAUGHT UP IN THE FACT THAT SHE'S A WOMAN. THAT WON'T HAPPEN AGAIN.
ANYWAY, I WON'T BE SATISFIED UNTIL I SEE THAT WOMAN'S CRYING FACE.
YOU'VE GOT TWO ENEMIES NOW.
.....
SAYOKO-SAN?
...WHAT'RE YOU GOING TO DO,



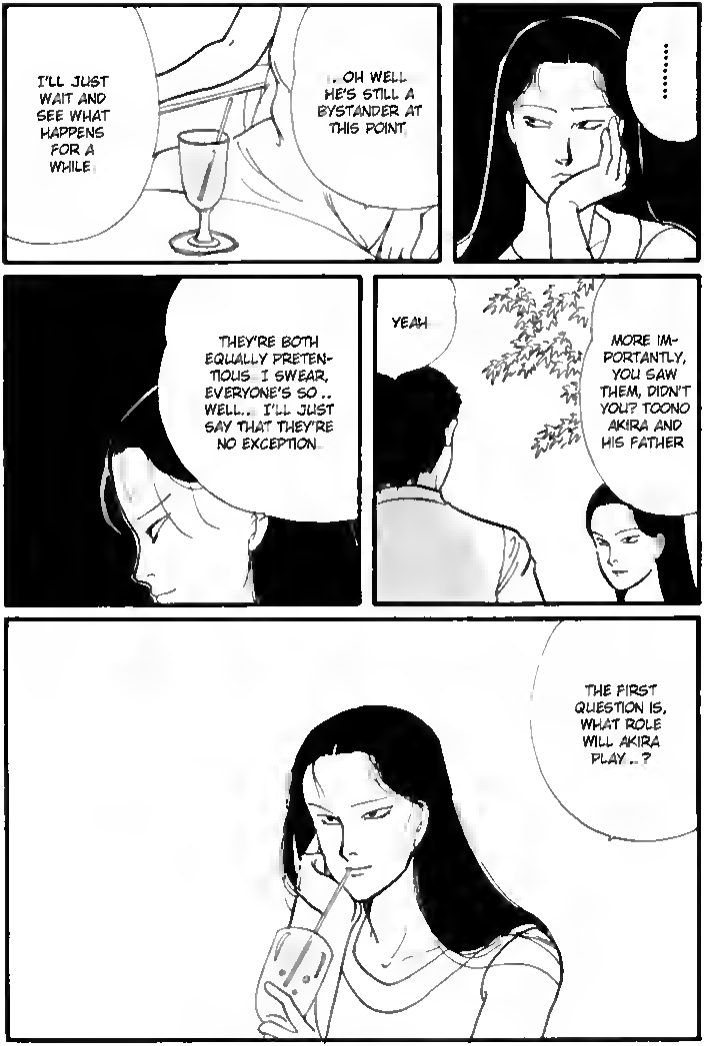
Kanou Household - Annex


YES, I DO TAKE A LOOK AT THIS
GOT SOME-THING GOOD THERE?

YOU SEEM TO BE ENJOY-ING YOUR-SELF.

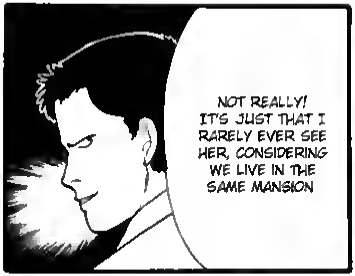


AND? WHAT'RE YOU GOING TO DO?
...I SEE
INDEED... WHAT SHOULD I DO..?
EXPLAINING WHAT HAPPENED BETWEEN TOONO RYOU AND A GIRL NAMED SAHARA YOSHIKO --- IT'S JUST LIKE HIM TO BE CAUGHT UP IN SOMETHING LIKE THAT.
INVESTIGATION RESULTS
...WHAT IS IT?
MY JOB WILL BE A LOT HARDER IF I MAKE AN ENEMY OUT OF HIM.
I'M NO GOOD WITH HIS TYPE... EVEN I HAVE MY WEAKNESSES.
THAT'S AWFULLY FAINT-HEARTED OF YOU.

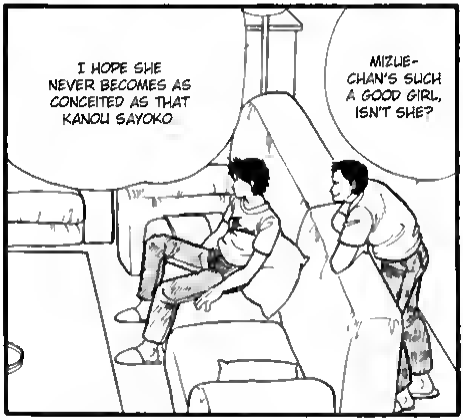

I'LL JUST WAIT AND SEE WHAT HAPPENS FOR A WHILE.
..OH WELL HE'S STILL A BYSTANDER AT THIS POINT.
.....
THEY'RE BOTH EQUALLY PRETENTIOUS. I SWEAR, EVERYONE'S SO.. WELL.. I'LL JUST SAY THAT THEY'RE NO EXCEPTION.
YEAH.
MORE IMPORTANTLY, YOU SAW THEM, DIDN'T YOU? TOONO AKIRA AND HIS FATHER
THE FIRST QUESTION IS, WHAT ROLE WILL AKIRA PLAY..?

OI, RYOU.
I WANT TO TALK TO YOU FOR A BIT. WILL YOU COME TO MY ROOM?
.....
HEH HEH!
IT'S JUST THAT YOUR TALKS ARE NEVER GOOD
WHAT? THERE'S NO REASON TO BE MAKING THAT SULLEN FACE, YOU KNOW?

DON'T YOU THINK?
OUR CONVERSATIONS HAVE BEEN AWFULLY UNDERHANDED LATELY.
I GUESS.
MAYBE BECAUSE WE'RE ILL-SUITED FOR EACH OTHER
HAVEN'T A CLUE
WONDER WHY THAT IS..?
YEAH.. WELL I REALLY DO THINK SO.
DON'T BE SO STANDOFFISH.. OH, YEAH SO HOW'S MIZUE-CHAN DOING?
HEH HEH!

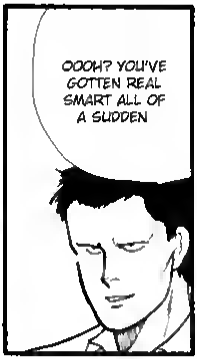

NOT REALLY! IT'S JUST THAT I RARELY EVER SEE HER, CONSIDERING WE LIVE IN THE SAME MANSION

...YOU WANT SOMETHING FROM MY SISTER?


I HOPE SHE NEVER BECOMES AS CONCEITED AS THAT KANOU SAYOKO
MIZUE-CHAN'S SUCH A GOOD GIRL, ISN'T SHE?

SHE SLEEPS AND WAKES SAME AS EVER

MUST BE BECAUSE WE GOT WELL-SUITED FOR EACH OTHER ALL OF A SUDDEN


OOOH? YOU'VE GOTTEN REAL SMART ALL OF A SUDDEN

WHAT THE HELL IS IT YOU WANT ME TO DO?
—THAT'S ENOUGH BEATING AROUND THE BUSH

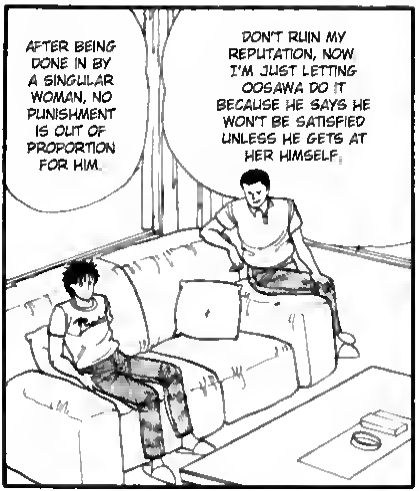
MORNIN'! HEY, HEY! DID YOU SEE THAT NEW COMEDY TROUPE RECENTLY?
MORN-ING!
IT'S BEEN FIVE DAYS ALREADY ?
HE MAY BE TOUGHER THAN I IMAGINED...
I TOOK HIM FOR THE TYPE TO ATTACK IN A FIT OF RAGE WHEN HIS PRIDE GETS INJURED
IT'S STRANGE HE HASN'T TRIED ANY-THING
"JUST REMEMBER, I'LL SHOW YOU "

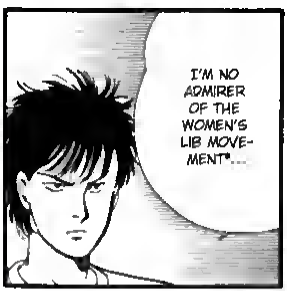
IT'S JUST ONE WOMAN!
WHY DO WE HAVE TO GO THROUGH SO MUCH TROUBLE FOR THIS PLAN?
THAT'S THE A PART I JUST DON'T GET!
EVEN THOUGH IT'S AKIRA WE'RE TALKING ABOUT HERE,
UU... I WAS CARELESS THAT TIME!
WHO'S THE ONE WHO WAS DONE IN SO EASILY BY THAT ONE WOMAN?!
WHAT HAPPENS AT SCHOOL STAYS BEHIND CLOSED DOORS
OI, RYOU! DO WE REALLY HAVE TO DO IT AT SCHOOL?

AT FIRST GLANCE IT WOULD SEEM LIKE THE OPPOSITE IS TRUE, BUT SCHOOL REALLY IS THE SAFEST PLACE NO MATTER WHAT HAPPENS, IT WILL ALWAYS STAY BEHIND CLOSED DOORS...
NO MATTER WHAT HAPPENS, A SCHOOL WILL DO ITS BEST TO HIDE IT. ESPECIALLY A PRIVATE SCHOOL SUCH AS OURS...
IT'S LIKE A LITTLE SANCTUARY.
WELL. WHATEVER. I'M FINE WITH ANYTHING SO LONG AS I GET TO MAKE THAT WOMAN WAIL.
TCHE!
THAT'S SUCH A WORTHLESS ARGUMENT.
YOU REALLY THINK I'D DO THAT?
...DON'T BETRAY US AT THE LAST MINUTE, RYOU.

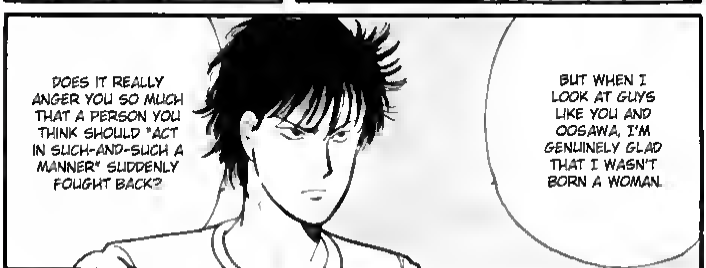
YOU'RE INCAPABLE OF OPPOSING AKIRA, HUH?
OF COURSE I DON'T.
YOU'RE IN A BAD MOOD. YOU DON'T REALLY FEEL LIKE DOING THIS, DO YOU?
I TOLD YOU I DON'T WANT ANY WOMAN AS TERRIFYING AS SHE IS.
YOU SURE YOU DON'T LIKE KANOU SAYOKO?
YOU OK?
AKIRA HAS CHANGED TOO, THOUGH. . I CAN'T BELIEVE HE'S LETTING ANOTHER MAN DO IN A WOMAN THAT HE HIMSELF HAS HIS EYES ON
HEHE! WELL, WHATEVER SO LONG AS YOU'RE ON OUR SIDE

PEOPLE WILL GET SUSPICIOUS IF YOU'RE ABSENT FROM CLASS
GET OUT OF HERE ALREADY, HISAKO
.....
THAT'S NO FAIR.
HEHE!
I'M SKIPPING
AND YOU?
THIS ISN'T FUNNY
...TCHE!
SLAM
MY PARENTS ARE GOING ON A TRIP SO THEY WON'T BE THERE. OK?
SAY, COME OVER TO MY PLACE THIS SATURDAY


AFTER BEING DONE IN BY A SINGULAR WOMAN, NO PUNISHMENT IS OUT OF PROPORTION FOR HIM.
DON'T RUIN MY REPUTATION, NOW. I'M JUST LETTING OOSAWA DO IT BECAUSE HE SAYS HE WON'T BE SATISFIED UNLESS HE GETS AT HER HIMSELF.



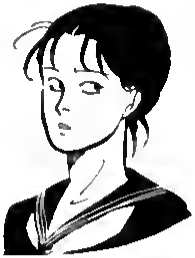
THAT WOMAN IS CRAFTY. OOSAWA MIGHT BE AN EASY TARGET FOR HER AGAIN IF HE GOES AT HER ALONE.
THAT'S WHY I WANT YOU TO LEND HIM A HAND. EVEN THOUGH HE'S GOT THE STRENGTH, HE ISN'T VERY SMART.


DOES IT REALLY ANGER YOU SO MUCH THAT A PERSON YOU THINK SHOULD "ACT IN SUCH-AND-SUCH A MANNER" SUDDENLY FOUGHT BACK?
BUT WHEN I LOOK AT GUYS LIKE YOU AND OOSAWA, I'M GENUINELY GLAD THAT I WASN'T BORN A WOMAN.

*Women's Liberation movement

Swan No, you're just a Chauvinistic pig >_<

I'LL NEVER PUT UP WITH BEING MADE A FOOL OF BY A WOMAN. I'VE GOT TO MAKE HER PAY, AND SOON.
I'M NOT.
HEH! YOU'RE JUST A FEMINIST.
EVEN THOUGH YOU MIGHT MARRY HER IN THE FUTURE?
I'M NOT NECESSARILY MARRYING HER BECAUSE I WANT TO.
AND I'M DRAGGING YOU DOWN WITH ME
YOUR GRUDGE AGAINST WOMEN IS GOING TO SEND YOU STRAIGHT TO HELL ANY DAY NOW
YOU ROTTEN SCOUN-DREL.

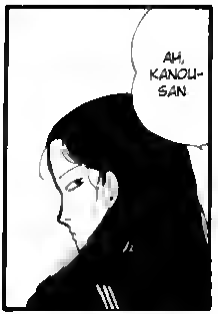


.....
Sigh
JUST ONE WOMAN HUH?
"'DEFENSE' FOR A MAN AND 'DEFENSE' FOR A WOMAN ARE TWO DIFFERENT THINGS"
'THEN AGAIN, SO IS 'OFFENSE' "
HOW FAR WILL YOU GO AGAINST MALE ADVERSARIES?
SHOW ME WHAT YOU'VE GOT.

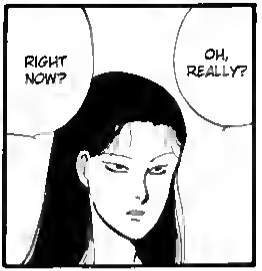
WELL, I'M OFF
OK. SEE YOU TO-MORROW!
BYE!

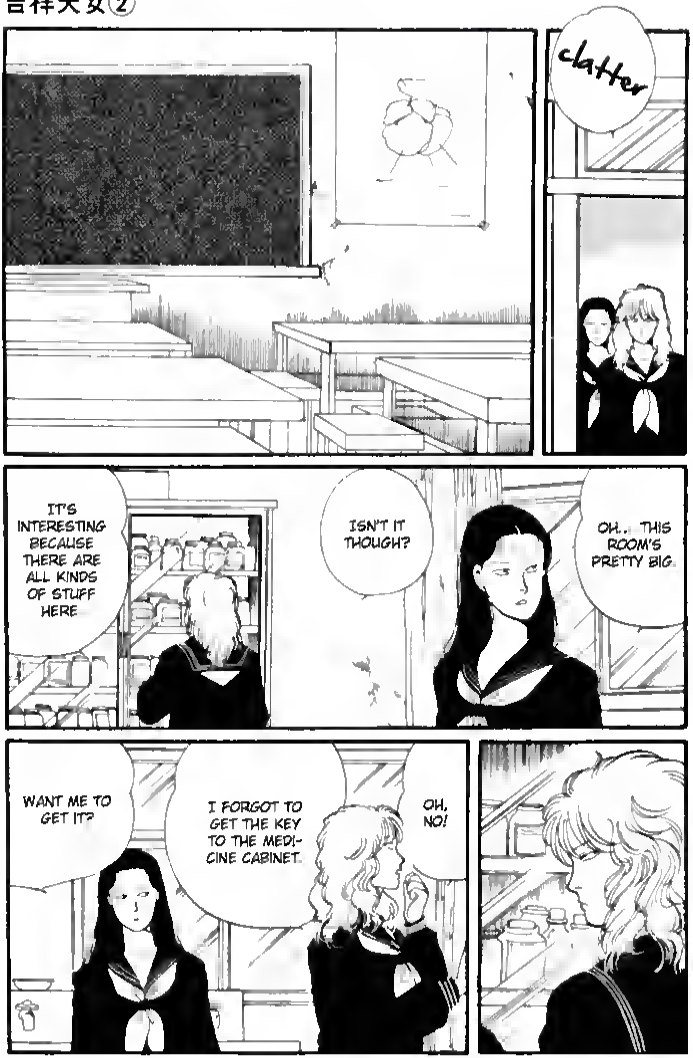
LATER!
WHAT THE HELL? YOU SKIPPING OUT ON THE CLEANING?!
ガラガラ

WELL, WE HAVE TO GET THAT SET-UP IT'S OUR TURN TO DO THAT THIS TIME
WE HAVE CHEMISTRY SECOND AND THIRD PERIODS TOMOR-ROW, RIGHT?


AH, KANOU-SAN

OK, THAT'S FINE
YEAH

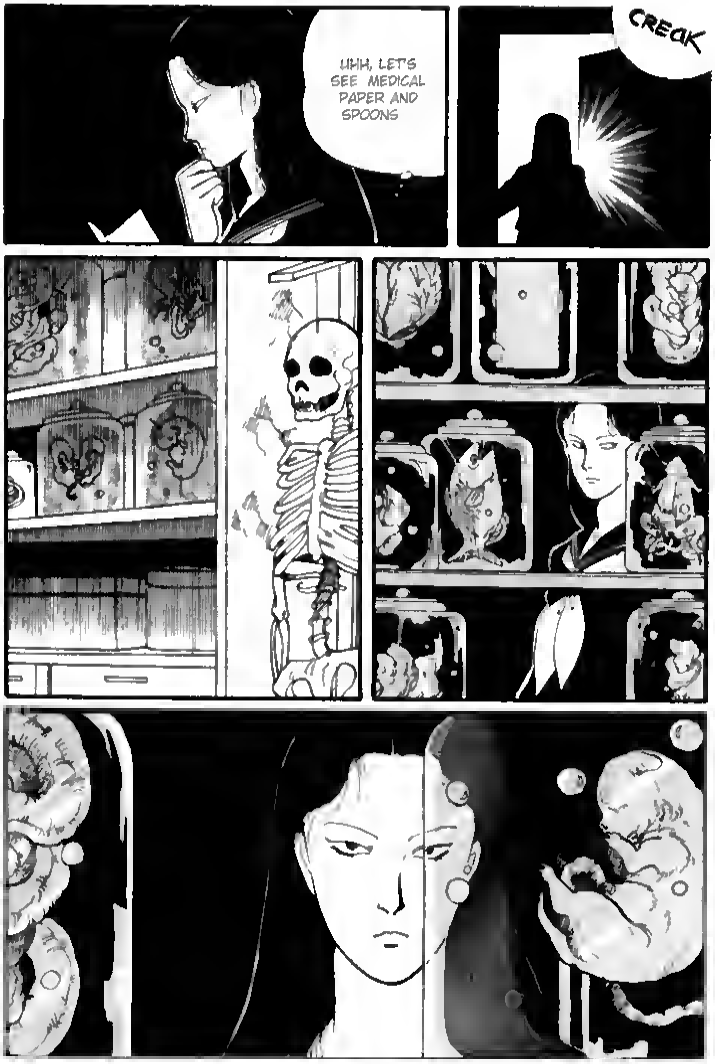

RIGHT NOW?
OH, REALLY?


clatter
OH... THIS ROOM'S PRETTY BIG.
ISN'T IT THOUGH?
IT'S INTERESTING BECAUSE THERE ARE ALL KINDS OF STUFF HERE
OH, NO!
I FORGOT TO GET THE KEY TO THE MEDICINE CABINET.
WANT ME TO GET IT?

COULD YOU GET THE STUFF WRITTEN ON THIS PAPER OUT, THOUGH?
IT'S ALL IN THE CABINETS OF THE NEIGHBORING FILE ROOM
ALRIGHT.
NO, THAT'S FINE I'LL GO.
SORRY FOR EVERYTHING I WAS IN THE WRONG
KANOU-SAN.
SURE.
OK, I'M COUNTING ON YOU!
RYOU-KUN DISLIKES ME, YOU KNOW.
IT'S ALRIGHT, IMAI-SAN
OH, DON'T WORRY ABOUT IT.
WHAT'S HAPPENED, HAPPENED

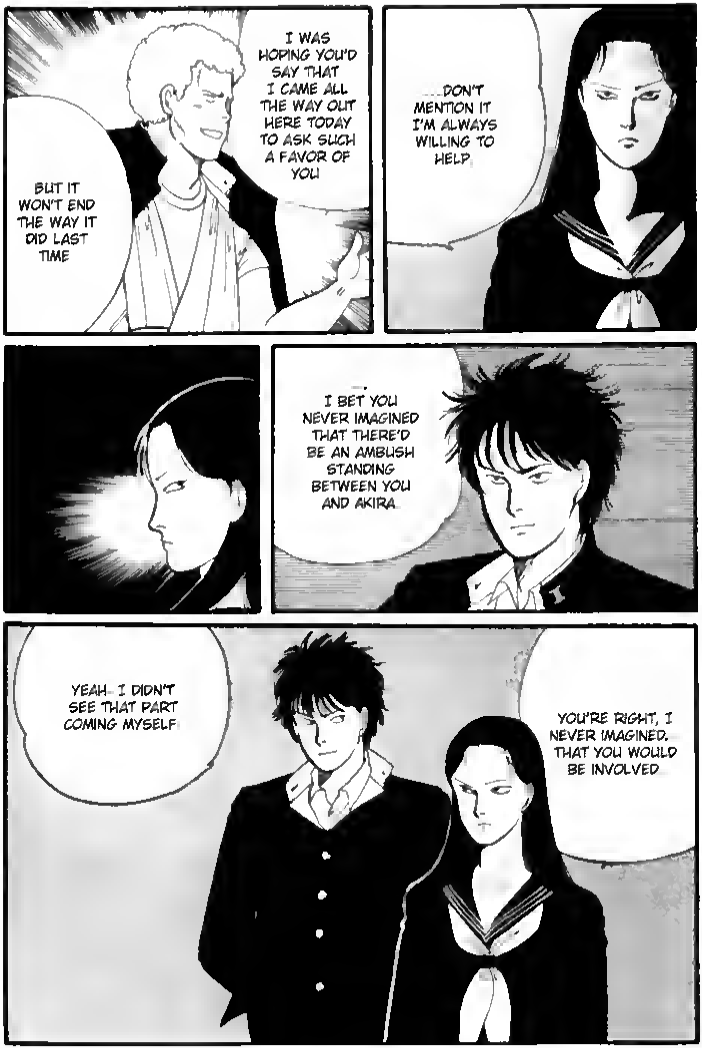
OK.
WELL, SEE YA I'LL BE RIGHT BACK.
ギク
gulp
HUH? I'M NOT THAT WORRIED ABOUT RYOU.
On 5 gn. Chem stry Room
……
カタ…
rattle
SHE'S ALONE NOW!
WE'RE GOOD TO GO!

WHAAAT?! WHY?
GOOD NOW GO HOME
EEEEH? I CAN AT LEAST ACT AS A LOOKOUT!
YOU'RE NOT NEEDED ANYMORE
ビクッ SHOCK
YOU'RE A WOMAN, JUST LIKE SHE IS! AND YOU DON'T UNDERSTAND WHY YOU CAN'T STAY?!
SHUT UP AND GO HOME!
TALKING TO MYSELF!
NOTH-ING.
WHAT?
...THOUGH WE'RE TAKING FOR GRANTED THAT THIS GIRL HAS A PLOT OF HER OWN...


UHH, LET'S SEE MEDICAL PAPER AND SPOONS
CREAK

YOU'VE GOT UNUSUAL TASTES..
MOST WOMEN DISLIKE THIS KIND OF STUFF
MOST GIRLS WOULD LEARN TO BEHAVE THEMSELVES IF THEY WERE EVER LOCKED UP IN HERE FOR A NIGHT
THEY COULD NEVER KEEP THEIR COOL IN THE FACE OF ALL THESE JARS..
YOU ALWAYS SHOW UP IN THE STRANGEST OF PLACES
clink
BUT I HIGHLY DOUBT THAT PARTICULAR TACTIC WOULD WORK ON YOU

YO.
WE MEET AGAIN, BABE.
!?
WHAT DO YOU MEAN?
...SO YOU WERE DISCHARGED FROM THE HOSPITAL.
SURE. THANKS TO YOU I OWE YOU SO MUCH.


I WAS HOPING YOU'D SAY THAT I CAME ALL THE WAY OUT HERE TODAY TO ASK SUCH A FAVOR OF YOU
BUT IT WON'T END THE WAY IT DID LAST TIME
...DON'T MENTION IT I'M ALWAYS WILLING TO HELP
I BET YOU NEVER IMAGINED THAT THERE'D BE AN AMBUSH STANDING BETWEEN YOU AND AKIRA
YEAH... I DIDN'T SEE THAT PART COMING MYSELF
YOU'RE RIGHT, I NEVER IMAGINED THAT YOU WOULD BE INVOLVED

I HAVE MY REASONS.
NO HARD FEELINGS, PLEASE.
TELLS ME THAT AKIRA-KUN IS PULLING THE STRINGS.
THE FACT THAT YOU'RE EVEN HERE
HEH HEH HEH HEH..
bloooow
swish

...I SWEAR, YOU MEN ARE ALL THE SAME
IS RAPE THE ONLY THING YOU CAN COME UP WITH WHEN YOU'RE FIGHTING A WOMAN?
AND IT'D BE GREAT IF YOU COULD LET US TAKE SOME NUDIE SHOTS WHILE WE'RE AT IT
WE REALLY WANNA KNOW WHETHER YOU'S A VIRGIN OR NOT!

RUSTLE
I HATE TO BREAK IT TO YOU, BUT EVEN I HAVE THE POWER TO CHOOSE
W-WHAT'S GOIN' ON?!
ACK!
TAP
CALM DOWN! IT'S JUST PAPER!

!
BANG!
WHY, YOU! HOLD IT!
OW!

……
WOOSH
!
clatter
slip
FLOMP
WHOOPSIE!

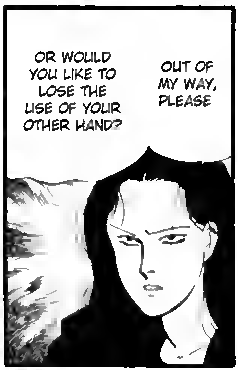
HEH HEH HEH I'VE FINALLY GOT YOU.
RYOU-KUN!
NOW BE A GOOD GIRL OR YOU DON'T WANNA GET HURT, DO YA?
MWAHAHA
IT'S LIKE I SAID. I HAVE PERSONAL REASONS.
I NEVER THOUGHT YOU'D PARTICIPATE IN SOMETHING AS VILE AS THIS.
I MISJUDGED YOU.
AKIRA-KUN REALLY FRIGHTENS YOU THAT MUCH?

NO!
STOP!
BITCH!
STAY STILL, DAMN IT!
YOU SAID YOU COULD DO IT ONE-HANDED, SO GO ON!
HEY, OOSAWA! GET ON WITH IT! STRIP HER ALREADY!
ISN'T THAT RIGHT?
A WOMAN'S FACE IS HER LIFE
OOSAWA, TELL HER YOU'LL SCAR HER FACE
PLEASE...
PLEASE, SPARE ME
NO! ANYTHING BUT THAT!
STOP!

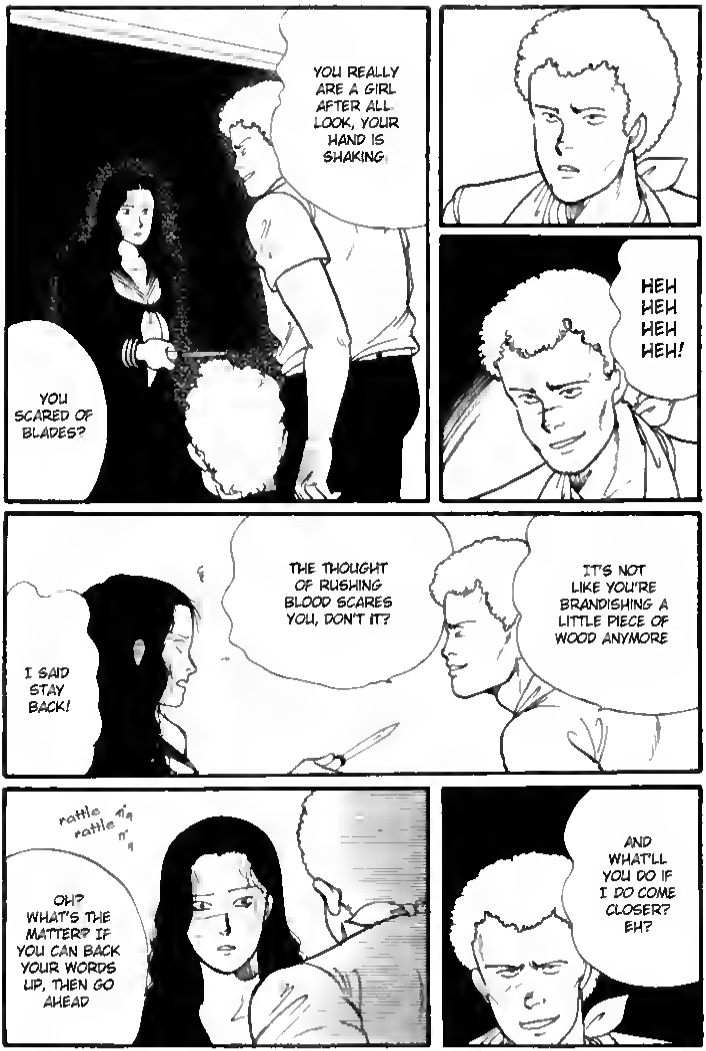
IF YOU LISTEN LIKE I GOOD GIRL, I WON'T HAVE TO GET ROUGH WITH YOU.
HA! YOU'RE RIGHT
THAT'S PRETTY NEAT
OR IS SHE JUST YOUR AVERAGE WOMAN AFTER ALL...?
OI! HURRY UP AND GET ON WITH IT, OOSAWA!
HE'S TOO EASILY FOOLED BY HER CHARMS.
TCHE! OOSAWA, WHAT AN IDIOT.
THIS IS NO TIME TO BE TAKING THINGS SLOW. WE HAVE TO TAKE ACTION.
COME ON, MATSUMOTO.

ACK!
CLATTER

OW OW OW..
THE BITCH CLAWED AT ME!


OR WOULD YOU LIKE TO LOSE THE USE OF YOUR OTHER HAND?
OUT OF MY WAY, PLEASE

WHY, YOU..
DON'T COME ANY CLOSER!


YOU REALLY ARE A GIRL AFTER ALL. LOOK, YOUR HAND IS SHAKING.
YOU SCARED OF BLADES?
HEH HEH HEH HEH!
I SAID STAY BACK!
THE THOUGHT OF RUSHING BLOOD SCARES YOU, DON'T IT?
IT'S NOT LIKE YOU'RE BRANDISHING A LITTLE PIECE OF WOOD ANYMORE
rattle rattle
OH? WHAT'S THE MATTER? IF YOU CAN BACK YOUR WORDS UP, THEN GO AHEAD
AND WHAT'LL YOU DO IF I DO COME CLOSER? EH?

WHAT IS IT? GO AHEAD! DO IT, YOU BITCH!
OOSAWA, STOP! IT'S A TRAP!
SLASH!!!

AAA-
AAA-
RGH!
!
EEK!
AAAAH!
FLOP
SHOCK
UU...

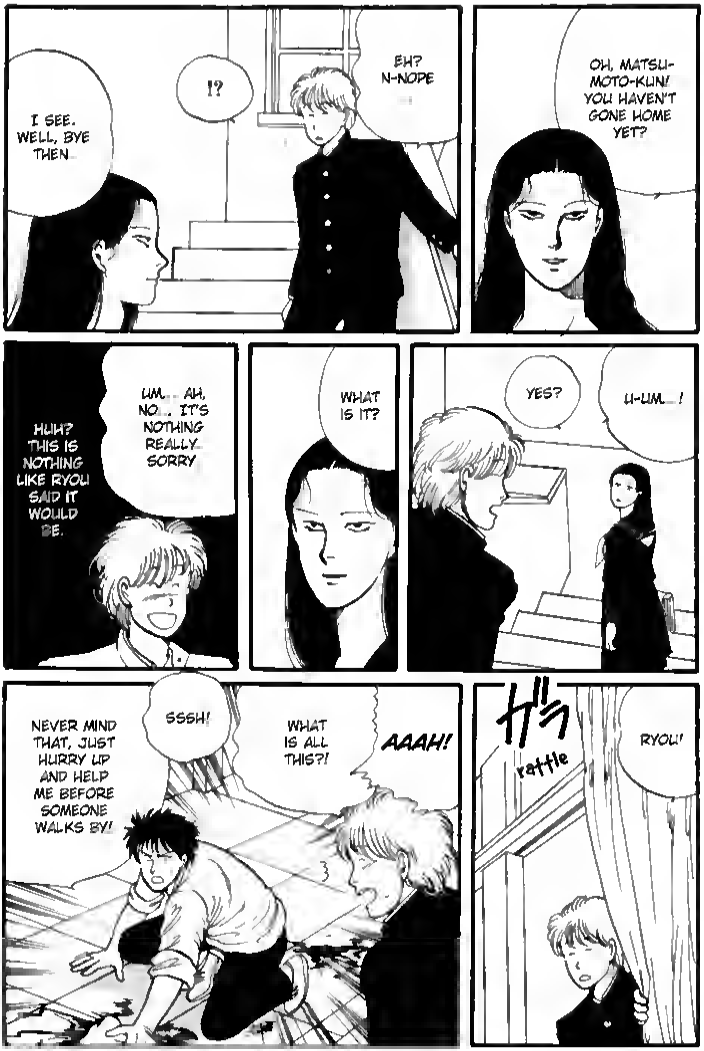
I ONLY DID IT BECAUSE YOU TOLD ME TO.
...
ARE YOU AFRAID OF BLOOD?
GULP
.....
FOR WOMEN, BLOOD IS NOTHING TO BE SCARED OF...

YOU SEE, WE BLEED EVERY MONTH.
カラん
CLANG
ぞく
CHILL
I TRUST YOU'LL TAKE CARE OF THE CLEAN UP.
OH, MY WHAT A MESS

ISN'T THAT RIGHT, RYOU-KUN?
YOU'RE THE ONES WHO STARTED THINGS, AFTER ALL
GOODBYE HOUICHI-KUN, MY EARLESS FRIEND
パタン
close..
OOSAWA! HANG IN THERE, OOSAWA!
uu... aw...

RYOU.
PUT A JACKET OVER OOSAWA'S HEAD AND GO OUT THE BACK DOOR SO NO ONE SEES YOU
W-WHERE SHOULD WE ?
ARE YOU STUPID?! HE OBVIOUSLY NEEDS TO GO TO THE HOSPITAL!
CALL AN AMBULANCE FROM THE PAYPHONE OUTSIDE. .
DON'T SAY ANYTHING MORE THAN YOU HAVE TO TELL THEM YOU GOT ATTACKED BY YAKUZA MEMBERS OR SOMETHING

BLECH
YOU IDIOT! STOP COMPLAINING AND GET OUT OF HERE!
W-WHAT?! HELL NO!
OH, AND TAKE THIS
GOT IT. WHAT ABOUT YOU?
MY UNCLE'S GOT SOME INFLUENCE THERE, SO IF YOU MENTION MY NAME YOU SHOULDN'T ENCOUNTER ANY PROBLEMS.
HAVE HIM TAKEN TO YAZAWA HOSPITAL. GOT IT?
I'LL HEAD OVER AS SOON AS I'M DONE TAKING CARE OF THINGS HERE.
H-HURRY, MAN.
DAMN IT.

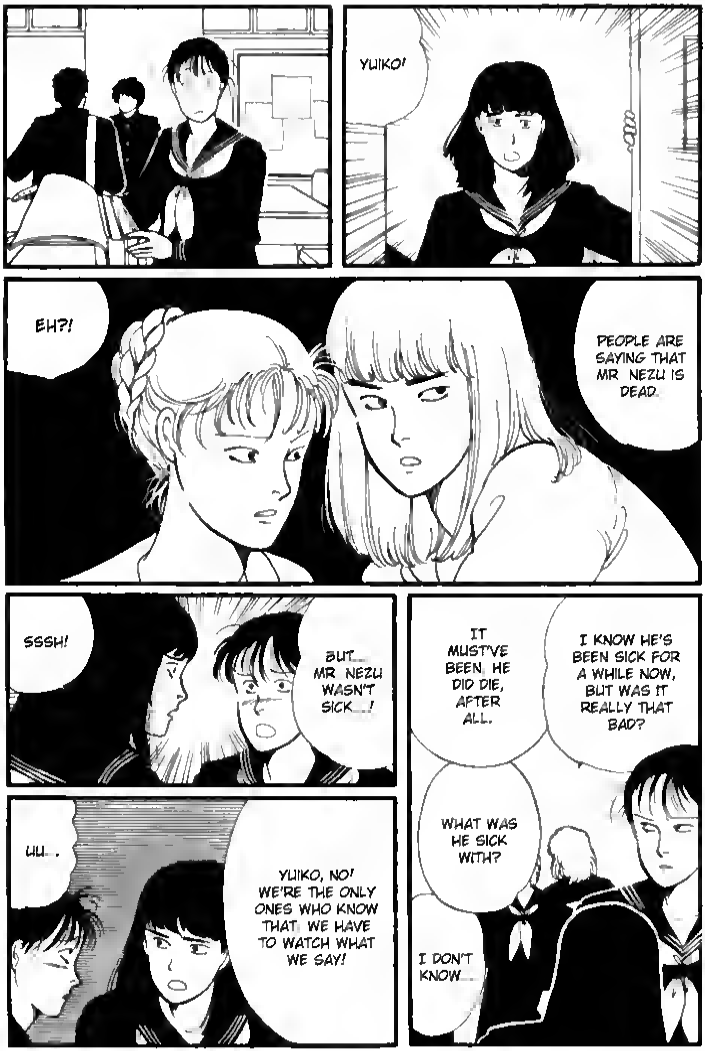

I SEE. WELL, BYE THEN.
!?
EH? N-NOPE
OH, MATSUMOTO-KUN! YOU HAVEN'T GONE HOME YET?
HUH? THIS IS NOTHING LIKE RYOU SAID IT WOULD BE.
UM... AH, NO... IT'S NOTHING REALLY. SORRY
WHAT IS IT?
YES?
U-UM...!
NEVER MIND THAT, JUST HURRY UP AND HELP ME BEFORE SOMEONE WALKS BY!
SSSH!
WHAT IS ALL THIS?!
AAAH!
ガラ
rattle
RYOU!

I'LL TELL YOU LATER
WHOSE BLOOD IS THIS?!
WHAT THE HECK IS GOING ON?
I PASSED KANOU SAYOKO ON THE WAY UP HERE AND SHE SEEMED PERFECTLY FINE
PEH! THIS WHOLE THING GIVES ME THE CREEPS
OK, GOTCHA.
HEY! MAKE SURE NO ONE SEES YOU! IT'LL BE OVER FOR THE BOTH OF US IF SOMEONE CATCHES US NOW
THIS RAG CAN'T TAKE ANYMORE.
YOU'RE LOOKING AWFULLY PALE WELL, WITH ALL THIS BLOOD, I CAN'T EXACTLY BLAME YOU
HEAD TO THE BATHROOM AND BRING BACK A BUNCH OF TOILET PAPER
MAYBE ALL THIS BLOOD IS MAKING ME FEEL SICK TOO
ガリ rattle
SIGH

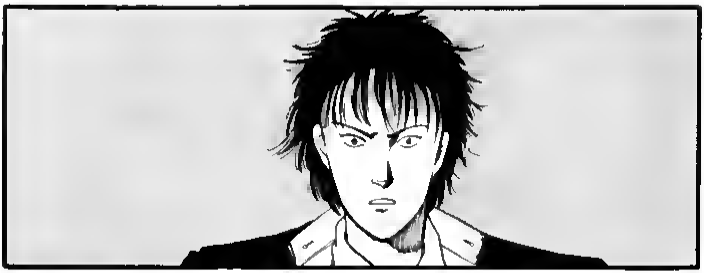
SHOCK ギク
And then I...
Kya!
Kya!
AH! TOONO-KUN?
WHAT'S HE DOING UP IN THE CHEMISTRY ROOM?
GOOD BYE, TOONO-KUN.
SEE YOU TOMORROW.
BYE!

SWISH!
HUH?!
SLAM
DON'T YOU THINK THAT WAS STRANGE, EVEN FOR HIM?
I WONDER
WAY TO TREAT US LIKE DIRT!
WHAT'S UP WITH HIM?!
NO, WHAT KIND OF DEMON IS SHE..?!
WHAT KIND OF WOMAN ..

バタバタバタ
HEY, DID YOU HEAR?
EH? HEAR WHAT?
WHAT? REALLY?!
YOU'RE KIDDING!
IT'S TRUE! I'M TELLING YOU, I WAS IN THE TEACHERS' ROOM EARLIER, AND
FOR REAL?
BUT, THERE'S NO WAY!
I CAN'T BELIEVE SOMETHING LIKE THAT COULD HAPPEN SO SUDDENLY...


YUIKO!
EH?!
PEOPLE ARE SAYING THAT MR. NEZU IS DEAD.
SSSH!
BUT... MR. NEZU WASN'T SICK...!
I KNOW HE'S BEEN SICK FOR A WHILE NOW, BUT WAS IT REALLY THAT BAD?
IT MUST'VE BEEN. HE DID DIE, AFTER ALL.
WHAT WAS HE SICK WITH?
I DON'T KNOW...
UU...
YUIKO, NO! WE'RE THE ONLY ONES WHO KNOW THAT. WE HAVE TO WATCH WHAT WE SAY!

YEAH, WHO WOULD'VE GUESSED?!
HEART FAILURE, RIGHT?
O!, DID YOU HEAR ABOUT THE MOUSE?
.....
FOR ATTEMPTING TO RAPE SAYOKO
HE WAS SUSPENDED
THE TRUTH IS
YOU'RE ALL WRONG MR. NEZU WASN'T ON SICK LEAVE
HE WAS A REAL PAIN IN THE ASS, SO I THOUGHT FOR SURE THAT MEANT HE'D LIVE FOREVER
I STILL CAN'T BELIEVE HE'S DEAD
I HEAR HIS FUNERAL IS THIS SUNDAY
THERE'S ONLY ONE POSSIBLE ANSWER TO THAT!
GULP
SO WHY IS MR. NEZU DEAD...?



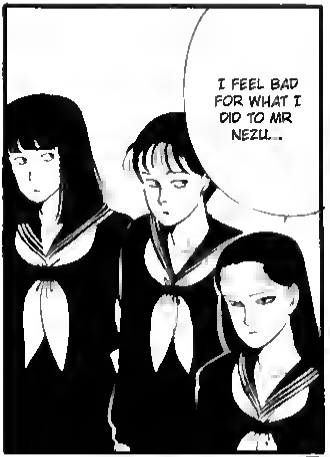
YEAH
SUICIDE
THAT'S WHAT DAD IS SAYING.

HA NOT LIKE HIS LIFE WAS OF ANY IMPORTANCE, ANYWAY
I SWEAR, THE GUY HAD NO BALLS. HE BROUGHT IT UPON HIMSELF. THAT'S NOTHING TO KILL YOURSELF OVER
.....

THE DIVORCE PAPERS HE RECEIVED ON THE 3RD DROVE HIM OVER THE EDGE AND... THAT WAS THAT
SQUEEZE

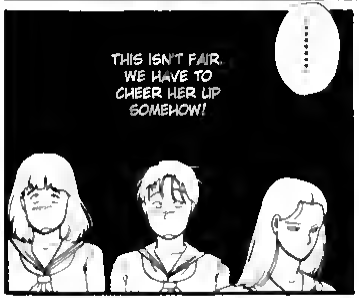
I'M SAYING WE FINALLY HAVE OUR FIRST CASUALTY
WHAT?
HE WAS DRIVEN SO FAR INTO A CORNER THAT DEATH WAS HIS ONLY OPTION.
YOU CAN DO WHATEVER THE HELL YOU WANT, JUST DO IT WITHOUT ME
I REFUSE TO SO MUCH AS LOOK AT SAYOKO FROM NOW ON.
EITHER WAY, I'VE HAD ENOUGH. SO DO WHATEVER MAKES YOU HAPPY.
IF THAT MEANS YOU WANT ME TO LEAVE THE TOONO FAMILY, SO BE IT
HA! YOU GETTING COLD FEET?
TO PUT IT BLUNTLY.. YES, I AM.

ARE YOU REALLY THAT AFRAID OF HER?
THAT KIND OF CONVICTION IS MORE THAN JUST A CASE OF COLD FEET
...
I DON'T THINK THEY'LL BE ABLE TO REATTACH OOSAWA'S EAR
EVEN A SKILLED SURGEON WOULD HAVE TROUBLE MAKING SUCH A CUT IN ONE HURRIED SLICE.
THE DOCTOR SAID THE CUT WAS AS CLEAN AND GRACEFUL AS IF IT HAD BEEN PERFORMED IN SURGERY
.....
HOW'S THAT? CHILL YOUR BLOOD ANY?


I FEEL BAD FOR WHAT I DID TO MR NEZU...

1
土地建物

Sign China 1


THIS ISN'T FAIR. WE HAVE TO CHEER HER UP SOMEHOW!
.....

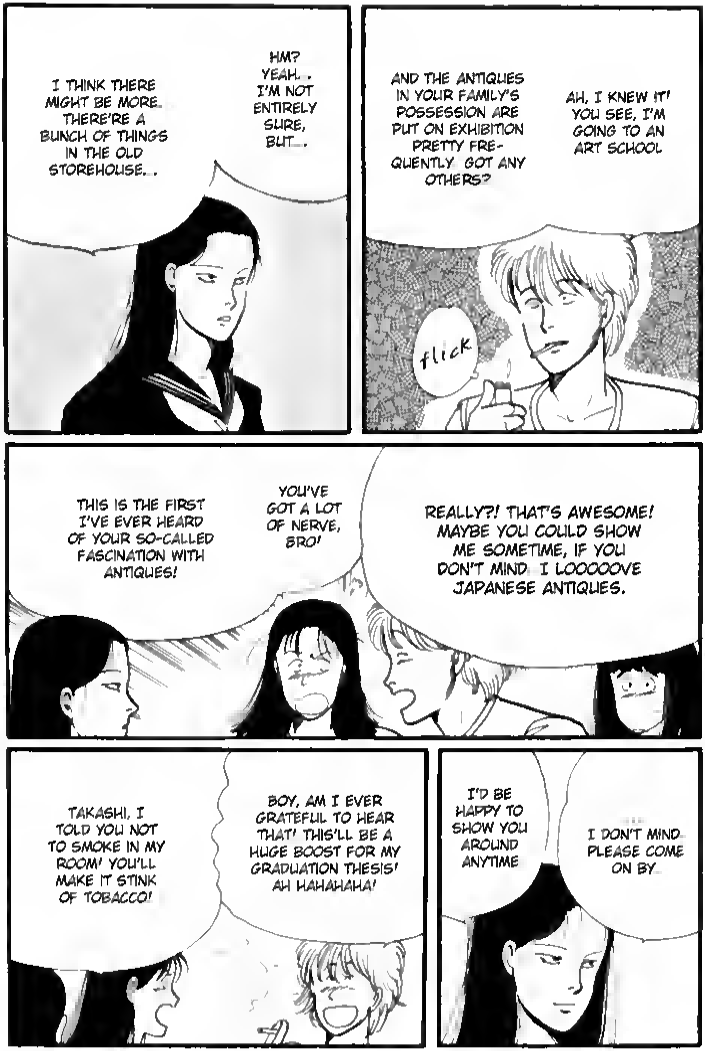
BUT... IT'S NOT YOUR FAULT, SAYOKO... IT WAS JUST AN UNFORTUNATE ACCIDENT

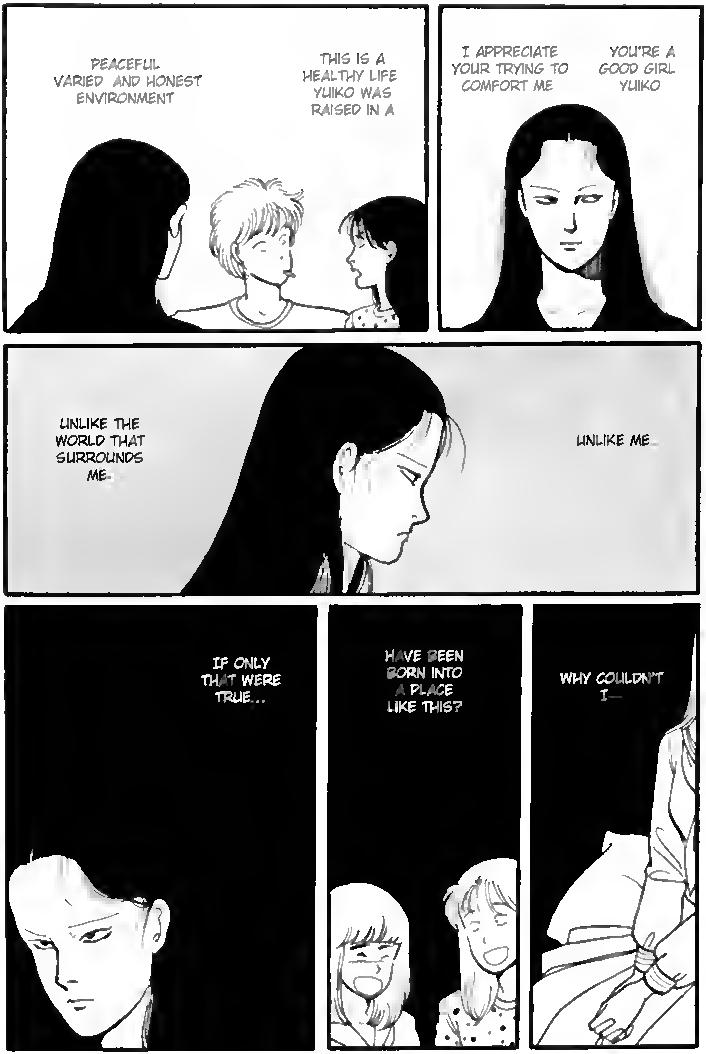
YOU'VE NEVER BEEN OVER BEFORE, RIGHT? YOU'VE GOTTA STOP BY! OK?
SAY, WHY DON'T YOU COME OVER TO MY PLACE? IT'S IN THE NEIGHBORHOOD.

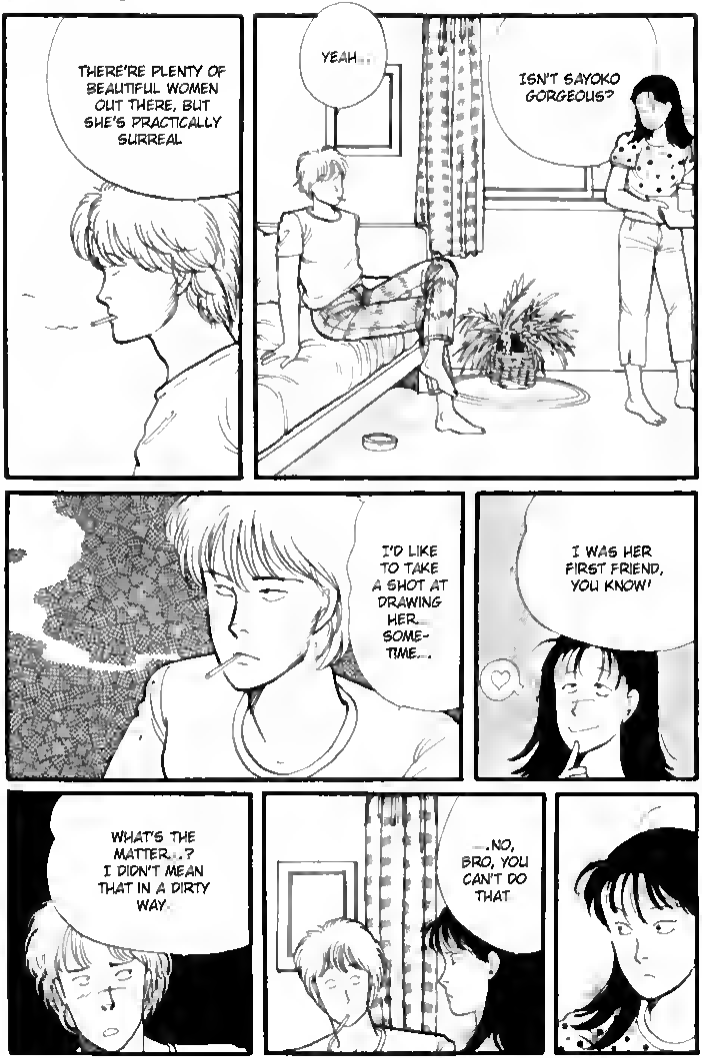
Kyaa!
Kyaa!
Kyaa!
YUIKO HAS SOME FRIENDS WITH HER.
WHAT'S WITH THE NOISE?
YAAAAAWN
...
NOT JUST OONO-SAN. THERE'S ANOTHER GIRL, TOO. REALLY PRETTY.
OH? MUST BE MARI-CHAN I REALLY LIKE HER. SHE'S SO HONEST!
AAAH
...
THANK YOU
AH, WELCOME! COME IN, COME IN!

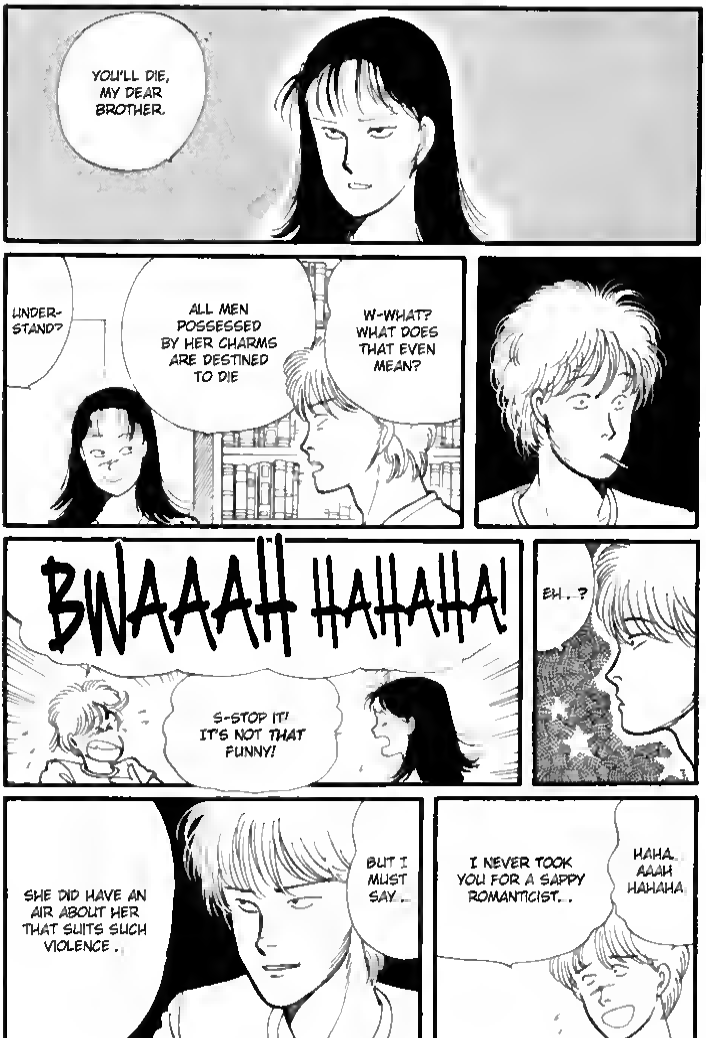
I SHOULD'VE COME OVER SOONER!
LONG TIME NO SEE, MARI-CHAN!
THANKS FOR DROPPING BY!
WHAT? YOU'RE HERE TODAY, BRO?
ガチャ
Open
HELLO!
OH! WONDERFUL, WONDERFUL... NICE TO MEET YOU I'M YUIKO'S BROTHER. BWAH HAHAHAHA!
HER NAME'S KANOU SAYOKO-SAN
NOT ONLY AM I HERE, BUT I BROUGHT YOU DRINKS! UHH..
チラ
glance
?
EH...? WELL... I GUESS SO...
HMM, KANOU-SAN.. DO YOU LIVE IN THAT BIG HOUSE IN 3-CHOUME?

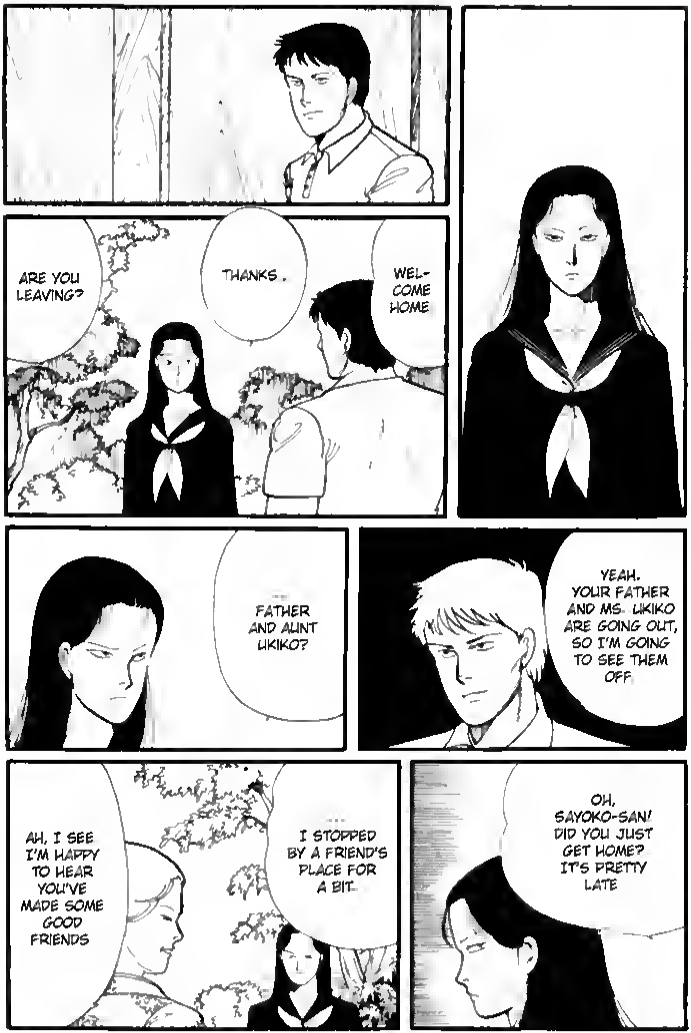
T/N: Choume is a part of addresses.


I THINK THERE MIGHT BE MORE. THERE'RE A BUNCH OF THINGS IN THE OLD STOREHOUSE. .
HM? YEAH. . I'M NOT ENTIRELY SURE, BUT...
AND THE ANTIQUES IN YOUR FAMILY'S POSSESSION ARE PUT ON EXHIBITION PRETTY FREQUENTLY. GOT ANY OTHERS?
AH, I KNEW IT! YOU SEE, I'M GOING TO AN ART SCHOOL
flick
THIS IS THE FIRST I'VE EVER HEARD OF YOUR SO-CALLED FASCINATION WITH ANTIQUES!
YOU'VE GOT A LOT OF NERVE, BRO!
REALLY?! THAT'S AWESOME! MAYBE YOU COULD SHOW ME SOMETIME, IF YOU DON'T MIND. I LOOOOOVE JAPANESE ANTIQUES.
TAKASHI, I TOLD YOU NOT TO SMOKE IN MY ROOM! YOU'LL MAKE IT STINK OF TOBACCO!
BOY, AM I EVER GRATEFUL TO HEAR THAT! THIS'LL BE A HUGE BOOST FOR MY GRADUATION THESIS! AH HAHAHAHA!
I'D BE HAPPY TO SHOW YOU AROUND ANYTIME
I DON'T MIND. PLEASE COME ON BY.

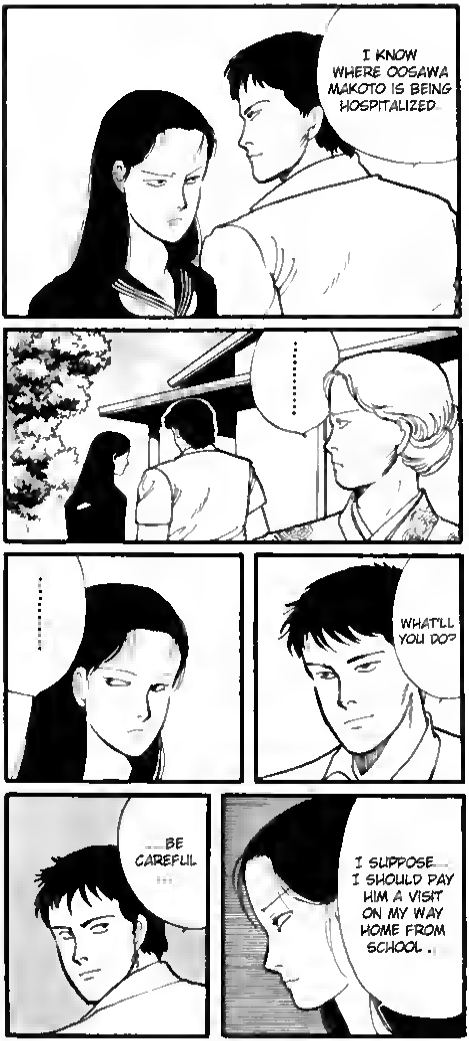

PEACEFUL VARIED AND HONEST ENVIRONMENT
THIS IS A HEALTHY LIFE YUIKO WAS RAISED IN A
I APPRECIATE YOUR TRYING TO COMFORT ME
YOU'RE A GOOD GIRL YUIKO
UNLIKE THE WORLD THAT SURROUNDS ME...
UNLIKE ME...
IF ONLY THAT WERE TRUE...
HAVE BEEN BORN INTO A PLACE LIKE THIS?
WHY COULDN'T I...

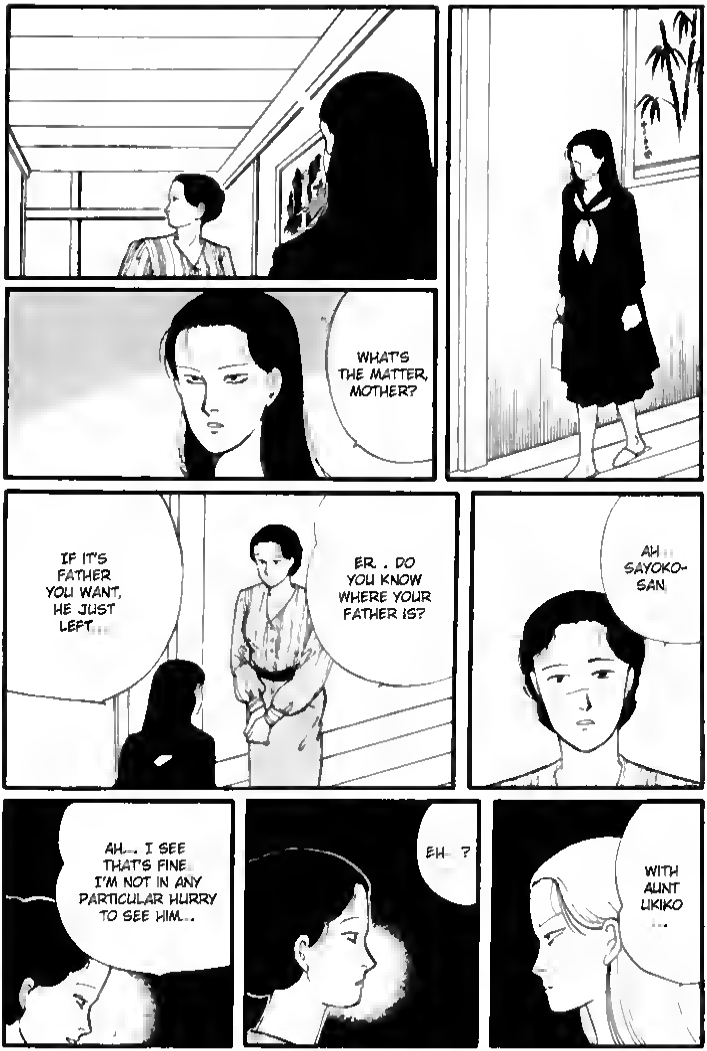

THERE'RE PLENTY OF BEAUTIFUL WOMEN OUT THERE, BUT SHE'S PRACTICALLY SURREAL
YEAH...
ISN'T SAYOKO GORGEOUS?
I'D LIKE TO TAKE A SHOT AT DRAWING HER... SOME-TIME...
I WAS HER FIRST FRIEND, YOU KNOW!
WHAT'S THE MATTER...? I DIDN'T MEAN THAT IN A DIRTY WAY.
...NO, BRO, YOU CAN'T DO THAT

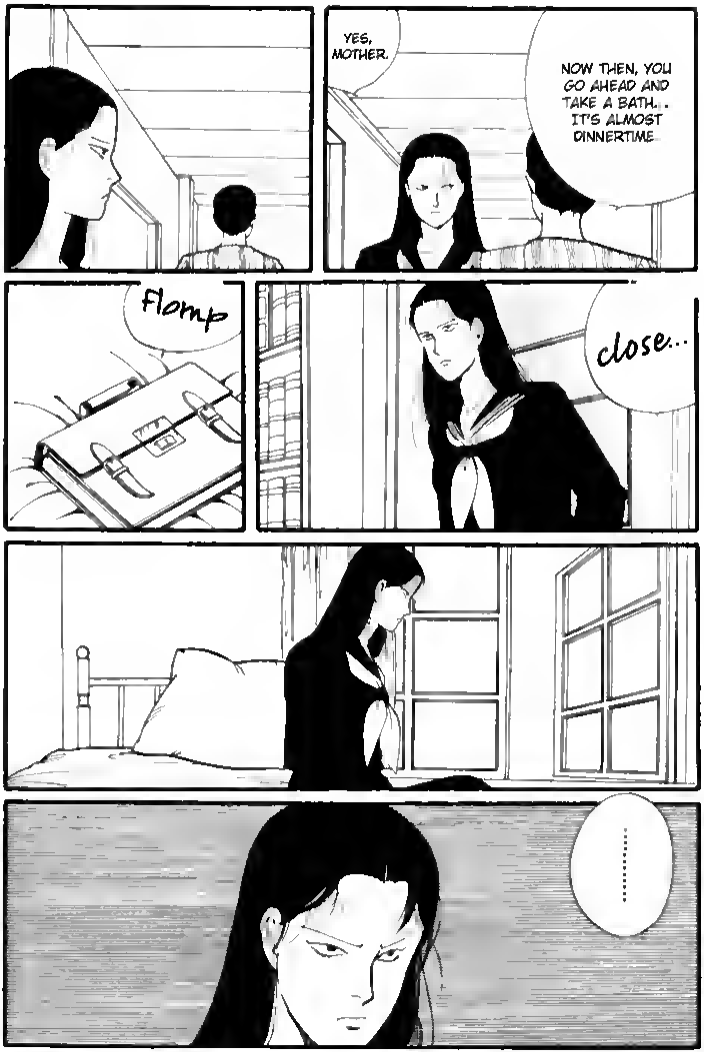

YOU'LL DIE, MY DEAR BROTHER.
UNDER-STAND?
ALL MEN POSSESSED BY HER CHARMS ARE DESTINED TO DIE
W-WHAT? WHAT DOES THAT EVEN MEAN?
BWAAAH HAHAHA!
S-STOP IT! IT'S NOT THAT FUNNY!
EH..?
SHE DID HAVE AN AIR ABOUT HER THAT SUITS SUCH VIOLENCE.
BUT I MUST SAY...
I NEVER TOOK YOU FOR A SAPPY ROMANTICIST..
HAHA. AAAH HAHAHA


ARE YOU LEAVING?
THANKS.
WELCOME HOME.
...FATHER AND AUNT IKIKO?
YEAH. YOUR FATHER AND MS. IKIKO ARE GOING OUT, SO I'M GOING TO SEE THEM OFF.
AH, I SEE I'M HAPPY TO HEAR YOU'VE MADE SOME GOOD FRIENDS
...I STOPPED BY A FRIEND'S PLACE FOR A BIT.
OH, SAYOKO-SAN! DID YOU JUST GET HOME? IT'S PRETTY LATE

HM? YES, WELL...
SORRY TO KEEP YOU WAITING. LET'S GET GO!...
...IT IS PRETTY LATE. WHY GO OUT AT THIS HOUR?
HM? YEAH... JUST FOR A BIT.
YES. ARE YOU AND AUNT IKIKO GOING SOMEWHERE?
...OH! THAT YOU, SAYOKO? JUST GOT HOME, HUH?
OF COURSE.
LET'S GO THEN, OGAWA-KUN.
S-SURE...
HAVE A GOOD TIME, YOU TWO.


I KNOW WHERE OOSAWA MAKOTO IS BEING HOSPITALIZED
.....
.....
WHAT'LL YOU DO?
BE CAREFUL
I SUPPOSE I SHOULD PAY HIM A VISIT ON MY WAY HOME FROM SCHOOL


WHAT'S THE MATTER, MOTHER?
ER.. DO YOU KNOW WHERE YOUR FATHER IS?
IF IT'S FATHER YOU WANT, HE JUST LEFT...
AH... SAYOKO-SAN
AH... I SEE THAT'S FINE... I'M NOT IN ANY PARTICULAR HURRY TO SEE HIM...
EH...?
WITH AUNT UKIKO ...


YES, MOTHER.
NOW THEN, YOU GO AHEAD AND TAKE A BATH... IT'S ALMOST DINNERTIME
flomp
close...
.....

WHO SAID I DID ANYTHING TO SET HIM OFF?
YOU'RE THE ONE WHO GOT HIM ALL STIRRED UP. THE LEAST YOU COULD DO IS VISIT HIM IN THE HOSPITAL
WHAT A PAIN IN THE ASS! WHY DO I HAVE TO GO SEE OOSAWA?
FINE, FINE I'LL GO.
AKIRA!
BESIDES, IT'S NOT LIKE A VISIT FROM ME WILL CAUSE HIS EAR TO MAGICALLY REATTACH ITSELF.
BUT IF IT'LL MAKE YOU FEEL BETTER.
I DON'T GIVE A RAT'S ASS ABOUT LOSERS LIKE HIM.

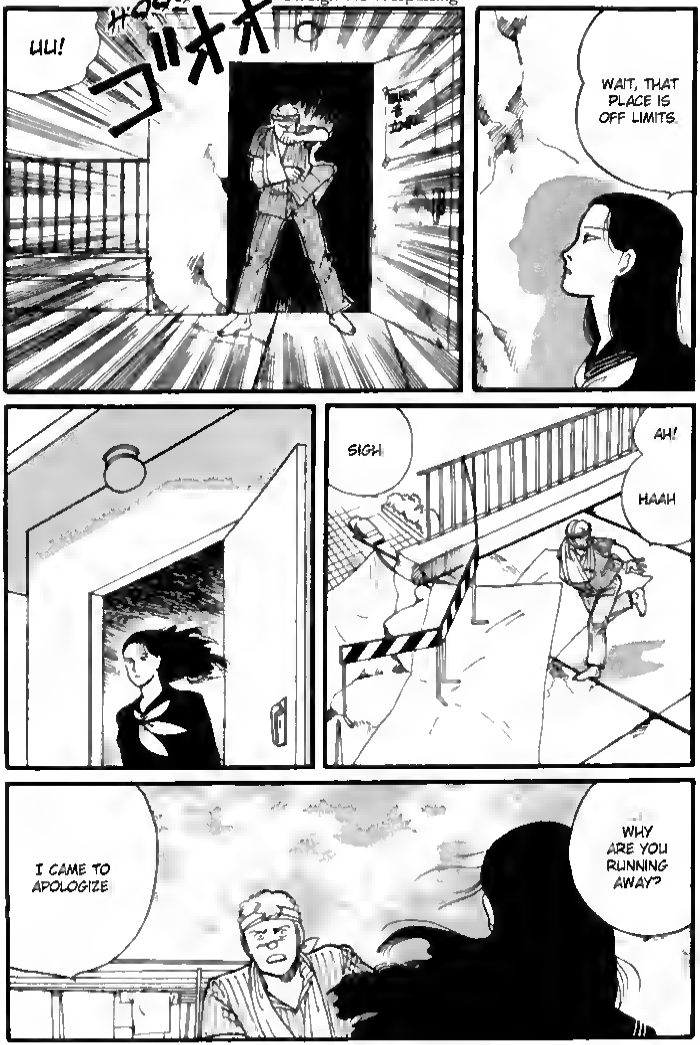
On Sign: Linen Room
リネン室
OOSAWA MAKOTO-SAN IS STAYING IN ROOM 501, ON THE FIFTH FLOOR
On Wall: Hospital Reception
On Sign: X-Ray Room
ギク
SHOCK
スウ——
WOOOOSH...

HH..
SHOULD YOU REALLY BE UP, OOSAWA-KUN?
OH?
BLAIN G!
I WAS ABOUT TO GO PAY YOU A VISIT.. HOW ARE YOU FEELING?

I'M SORRY ABOUT WHAT HAPPENED... I WAS OUT OF LINE.
BUT I WAS SO SCARED... YOU UNDER-STAND, DON'T YOU?
AAARGH!
WHAT'S WRONG?
S-STAY BACK!
UU! UU...!
AH. OOSA-WA-KUN, WAIT.
EEK!
THUD
THUD
THUD
ダ" ダ" ダ"

Roof Exit R
Under construction/ No trespassing.
HAAH
HAAH
HAAH
AH!
HAAH
HAAH
HAAH
HAAH
tap
tap
tap
tap
tap
tap
tap
tap
tap
tap
HAAH
HAAH

tap
tap
tap
H
HEL..!
UU..
WAAAAH!
ware!
WHY ARE YOU RUNNING AWAY?
stomp
stomp
stomp
stomp
OH, PLEASE WAIT, OOSAWA-KUN


UU!
WAIT, THAT PLACE IS OFF LIMITS.
SIGH
AH!
HAAH
I CAME TO APOLOGIZE
WHY ARE YOU RUNNING AWAY?

S-STAY AWAAAY!

スリ
slip

MAYBE HE LEFT TO TAKE A PISS.
HUH? HE'S NOT HERE.

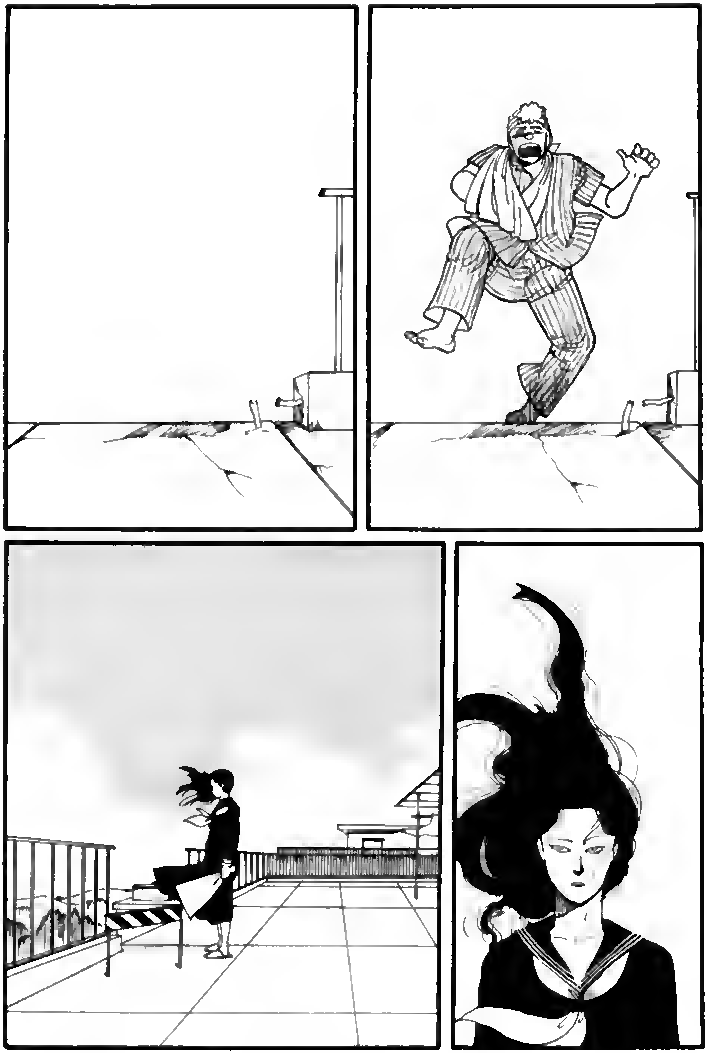
OOSAWA.
OPEN

ANYWAY, LET'S WAIT HERE FOR A BIT.

HA! IF HE CAN WALK AROUND, THEN HE'S NOT THAT HURT I HATE GUYS LIKE HIM WHO MAKE A FUSS OVER NOTHING

I WANT TO APOLOGIZE... I REALLY DO..
THIS PLACE IS DANGEROUS, ESPECIALLY WITH THE STRONG WINDS
I-I'M SORRY FOR WHAT I DID...!
STAY BACK.. PLEASE LEAVE ME ALONE ALREADY!

ゴオオオ
!
ガク
WOBBLE



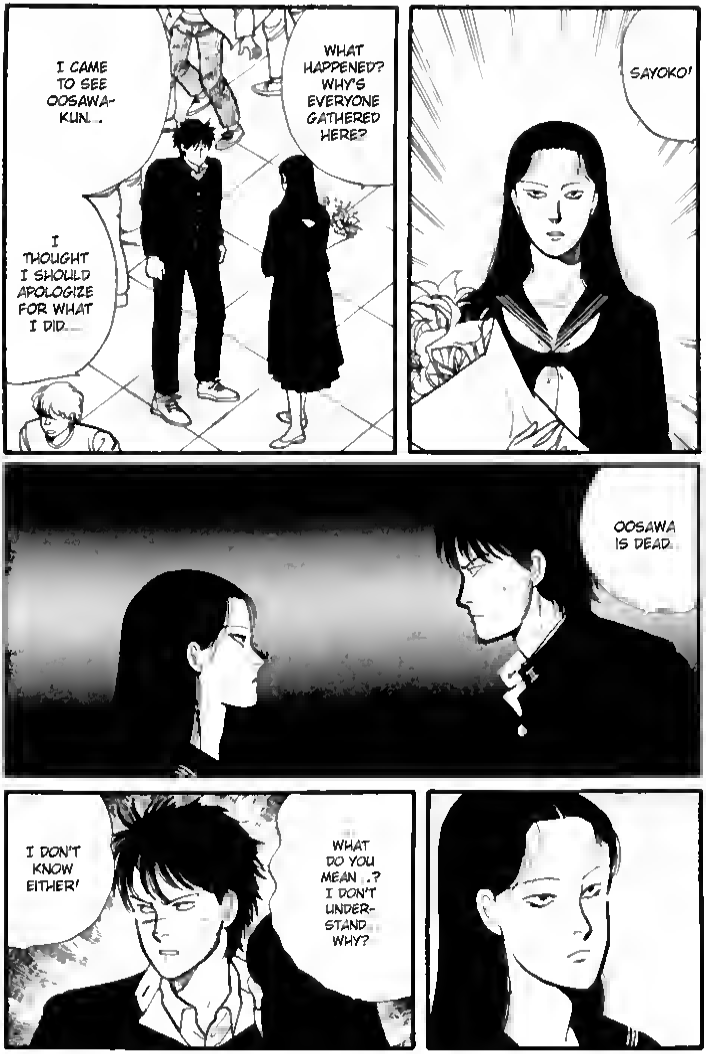
AKIRA YOU SHOULD TAKE YOUR SIGHTS OFF OF SAYOKO ALREADY.
TCHE! HE'S TAKING QUITE THE PISS.
NONE OF THOSE THINGS EVEN APPLY THESE DAYS.
EVEN IF THE ADULTS WANT TO MANIPULATE THEIR WAY INTO HER FAMILY FOR SOCIAL STATUS AND WEALTH,
RYOU!
YOU WITH ME? I HAVE MY OWN REASONS FOR TRYING TO BEND HER TO MY WILL. .
!
I'M NOT PURSUING HER TO SATISFY MY FAMILY'S PETTY MOTIVES
HA! YOU DON'T GET IT...

BANG!
LUNGE
OO-
SA-
WA!

OH MY GOD! SOMEONE FELL!
KYA-AAA!
TAP TAP
ダダッ
DID HE FALL FROM THE ROOF...?

COME ON, STEP BACK!
STOP RIGHT THERE YOU CAN'T COME ANY CLOSER
WHAT'S THE MATTER?
DID SOMETHING HAPPEN?
I HEARD THAT SOMEONE JUMPED
OOOH? FROM THE SEVENTH FLOOR?
HEY, YOU! I SAID NOT TO GET CLOSE!
H-HE'S MY FRIEND!
IF THAT'S TRUE, THAT'S ALL THE MORE REASON NOT TO LOOK!
……!
ガチャ…
rattle...

BUT WHY WAS HE UP IN A PLACE LIKE THIS...?
...FROM HERE, HUH?
.....?
RYOU-KUN!


I CAME TO SEE OOSAWA-KUN...
I THOUGHT I SHOULD APOLOGIZE FOR WHAT I DID...
WHAT HAPPENED? WHY'S EVERYONE GATHERED HERE?
SAYOKO!
OOSAWA IS DEAD.
I DON'T KNOW EITHER!
WHAT DO YOU MEAN ..? I DON'T UNDER-STAND WHY?

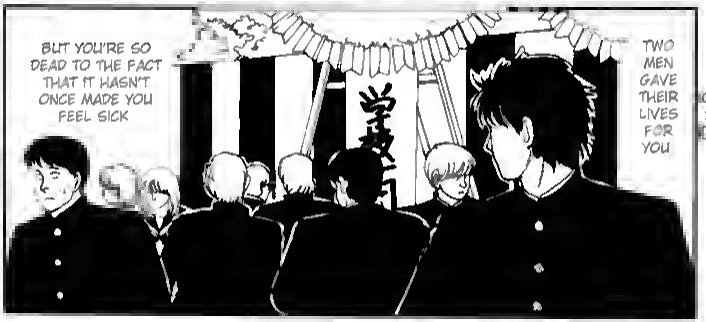
ENOUGH IS ENOUGH...!
DAMN IT.. ANOTHER DEATH...
.....

……
OH? NEVER THOUGHT I'D SEE YOU HERE.
HEY! THIS IS NO TIME FOR A LOVE SCENE.
……
!
?
I SEE—. SO THAT'S IT.
HEH HEH HEH.

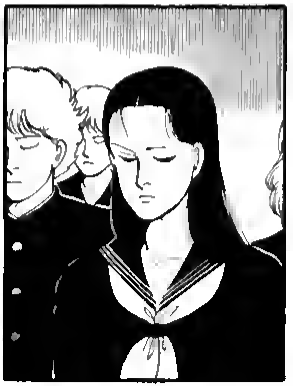
T/N: White lilies are considered to be a funeral flower in Japan

NO, MAYBE IT'S JUST YOU
WOMEN ARE SOMETHING ELSE

YOU LOOK LIKE A HEAVENLY MAIDEN WHEN YOU PRAY.


BUT YOU'RE SO DEAD TO THE FACT THAT IT HASN'T ONCE MADE YOU FEEL SICK
TWO MEN GAVE THEIR LIVES FOR YOU
[On Sign School [Cut off]

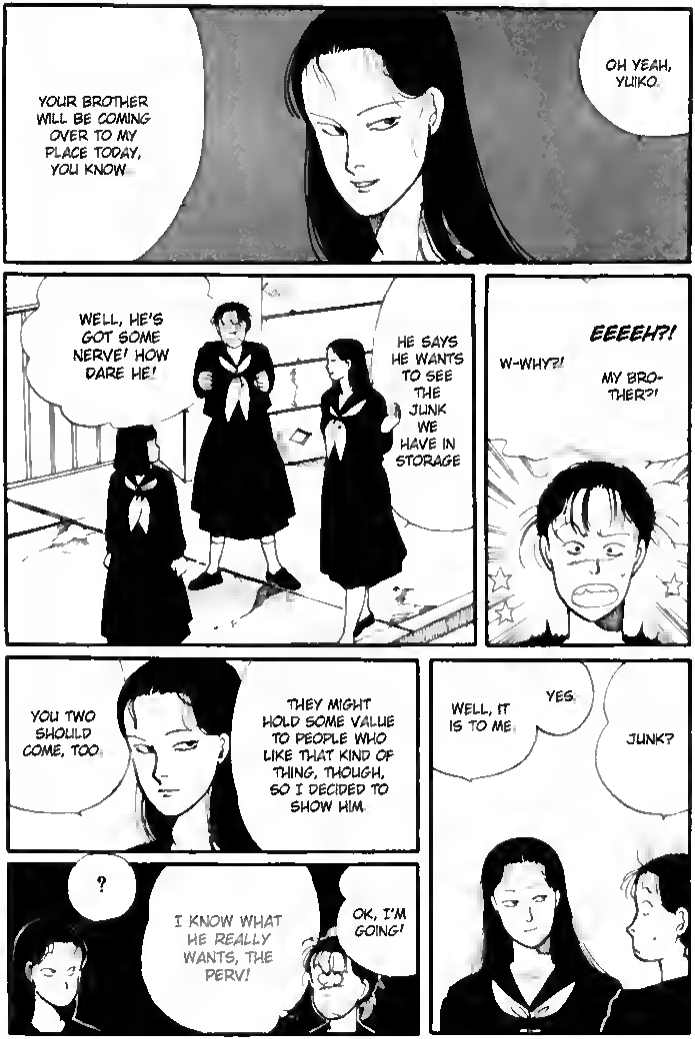
I DON'T LIKE YOU,
BUT I HAVE TO RESPECT YOUR PRINCESS-LIKE DEMEANOR AND GRIT.



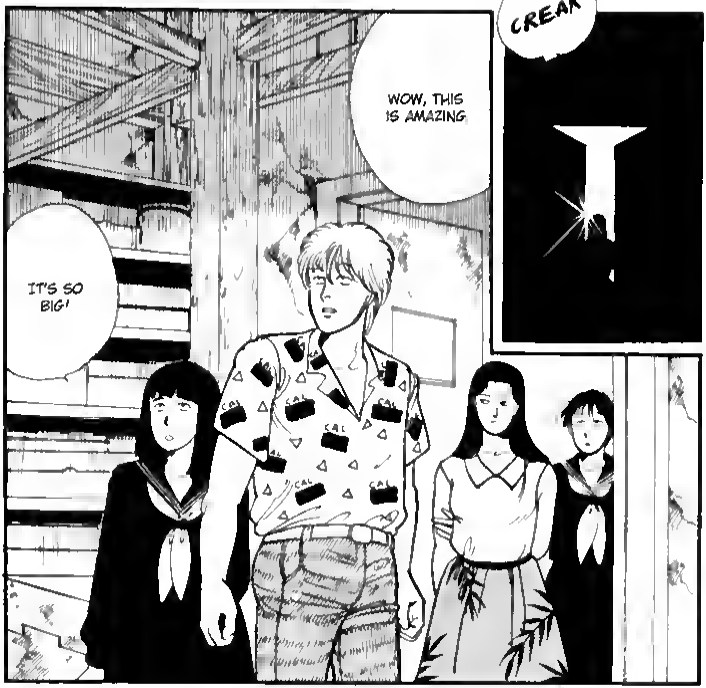
FANCY SEEING YOU HERE.
AKIRA, HUH. .?
RYOU.
RYOU. . I'VE DECIDED TO CHANGE STRATEGIES.
HEY, DON'T GET ANGRY ABOUT IT
PRINCETON
YOU DIDN'T EVEN COME TO OOSAWA'S WAKE, AFTER ALL
I IMAGINE YOU DIDN'T COME TO PAY YOUR RESPECTS
RIGHT . . .
WITH KANOU SAYOKO . . .
EH?

I'M NOT THINKING OF USING YOU ANY-MORE
YEAH, I KNOW.
. LIKE I TOLD YOU, I'M DONE GETTING MIXED UP WITH HER.
IT'S JUST LIKE YOU SAID, RYOU... I'VE GOT A NEW PERCEPTION OF HER NOW.
I'M. . SWITCHING METHODS.
GOT IT, RYOU?!
I'M WARNING YOU NOT TO LAY A HAND ON HER NOW
AND SO . I WON'T TROUBLE YOU ANY-MORE.
AKIRA . . ?
...UU..
RATHER ...
PRINCETON

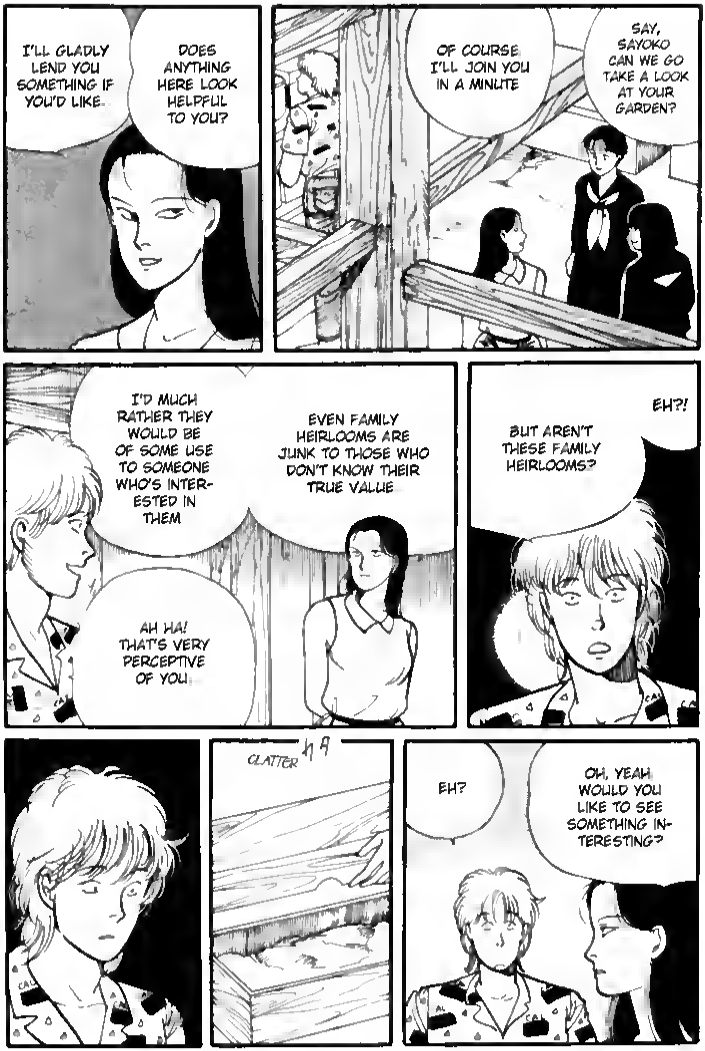
WAIT, AKIRA!
AH, HOLD ON!
DAD SAYS WE SHOULD ALL EAT OUT TONIGHT.
THAT'S ALL I WANTED TO SAY.
THIS IS DEFINITELY BAD...
THIS IS BAD...


OH YEAH, YUIKO.
YOUR BROTHER WILL BE COMING OVER TO MY PLACE TODAY, YOU KNOW.
EEEEH?!
W-WHY?!
MY BRO-THER?!
WELL, HE'S GOT SOME NERVE! HOW DARE HE!
HE SAYS HE WANTS TO SEE THE JUNK WE HAVE IN STORAGE
YES.
WELL, IT IS TO ME.
JUNK?
YOU TWO SHOULD COME, TOO.
THEY MIGHT HOLD SOME VALUE TO PEOPLE WHO LIKE THAT KIND OF THING, THOUGH, SO I DECIDED TO SHOW HIM.
?
I KNOW WHAT HE REALLY WANTS, THE PERV!
OK, I'M GOING!

AH! OH, UM, DON'T MIND ME.
WAIT HERE A LITTLE WHILE LONGER I'M SURE SHE'LL BE HOME SOON
fidget そわ
STILL, WHAT A HOUSE! REALLY SUITS AN OLD FAMILY WITH A SEVERAL-HUNDRED-YEAR-OLD HISTORY LIKE THIS ONE.
flick
THIS SUCKS
SIIIIGH
AH.. YUIIKO..?
Brooooooo!
ガク SHOCK

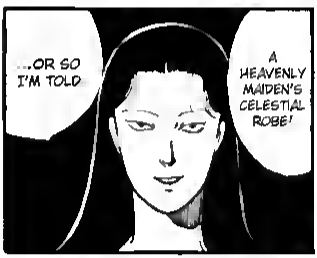

CREAK
WOW, THIS IS AMAZING
IT'S SO BIG!
THIS PLACE HASN'T BEEN OPENED UP FOR A WHILE, SO IT'S A BIT DUSTY.
OH! THIS IS KAK-IEMON. .
AAAH, I'M EXCITED TO LOOK AROUND.
IF MY GRANDFATHER WERE AROUND, I'M SURE HE COULD TALK ABOUT EVERYTHING HERE, BUT I'M AFRAID HE'S NOT FEELING SO WELL. .

T/N: Kakiemon is a type of brightly-decorated, high-quality Japanese porcelain.

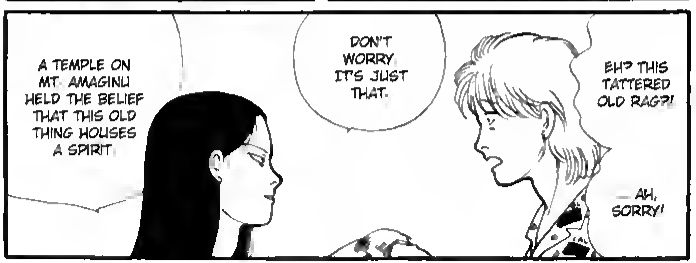

I'LL GLADLY LEND YOU SOMETHING IF YOU'D LIKE.
DOES ANYTHING HERE LOOK HELPFUL TO YOU?
OF COURSE. I'LL JOIN YOU IN A MINUTE
SAY, SAYOKO CAN WE GO TAKE A LOOK AT YOUR GARDEN?
I'D MUCH RATHER THEY WOULD BE OF SOME USE TO SOMEONE WHO'S INTERESTED IN THEM
EVEN FAMILY HEIRLOOMS ARE JUNK TO THOSE WHO DON'T KNOW THEIR TRUE VALUE
AH HA! THAT'S VERY PERCEPTIVE OF YOU.
EH?!
BUT AREN'T THESE FAMILY HEIRLOOMS?
CLATTER
EH?
OH, YEAH. WOULD YOU LIKE TO SEE SOMETHING INTERESTING?

?
I DON'T KNOW. WHAT IS IT...?

HUH?
A CELESTIAL ROBE.

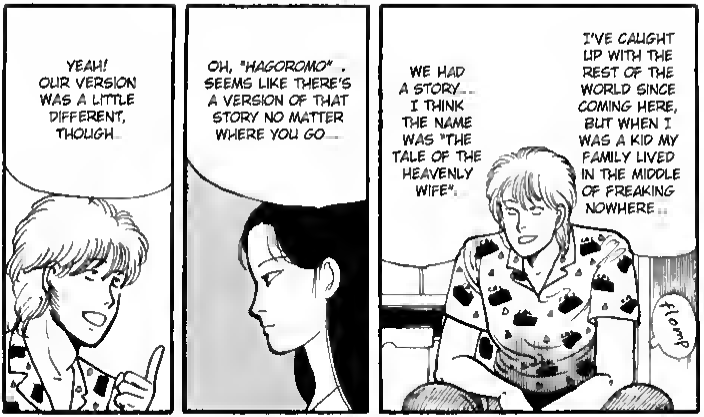

...OR SO I'M TOLD.
A HEAVENLY MAIDEN'S CELESTIAL ROBE!

WHAT DO YOU THINK THIS IS?

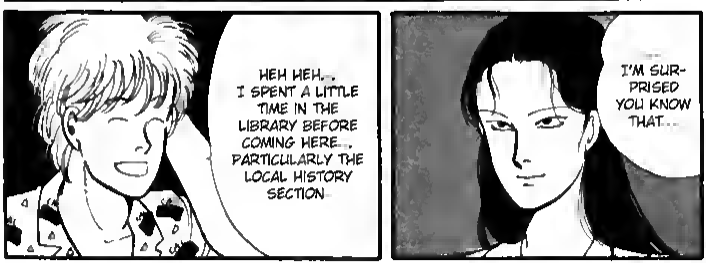

A TEMPLE ON MT. AMAGINU HELD THE BELIEF THAT THIS OLD THING HOUSES A SPIRIT.
DON'T WORRY. IT'S JUST THAT.
EH? THIS TATTERED OLD RAG?!
...AH, SORRY!

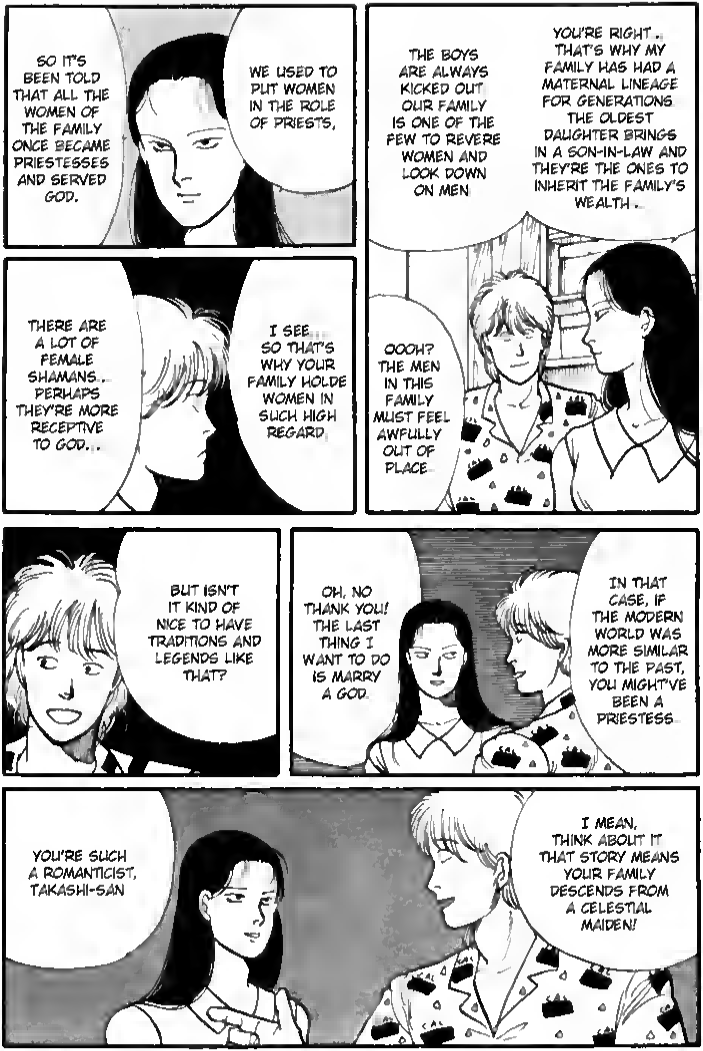
THAT WAS TERRIBLE. I THINK SOME PEOPLE EVEN DIED.
EH? YEAH, NOW THAT YOU MENTION IT...
TEN YEARS AGO... A FIRE BROKE OUT AT THAT TEMPLE. DO YOU REMEMBER?
LOOK FOR YOURSELF... IT'S SCORCHED IN PLACES...
OH! AND SO...
THEY DID THAT BECAUSE, FOR GENERATIONS, THE CHIEF SHAMANS THAT PRESIDED OVER THAT SHRINE WERE MEMBERS OF MY FAMILY
THIS CLOTH BARELY MADE IT OUT SAFELY, AND WAS TRANSFERRED TO MY FAMILY.
TRUE...
BUT I SUPPOSE THAT'S WHY THEY CALL IT "FAITH"
IT'S STRANGE FOR A HEAVENLY MAIDEN'S ROBE TO BURN,

T/N. Hagoromo roughly means "The Feather Robe"

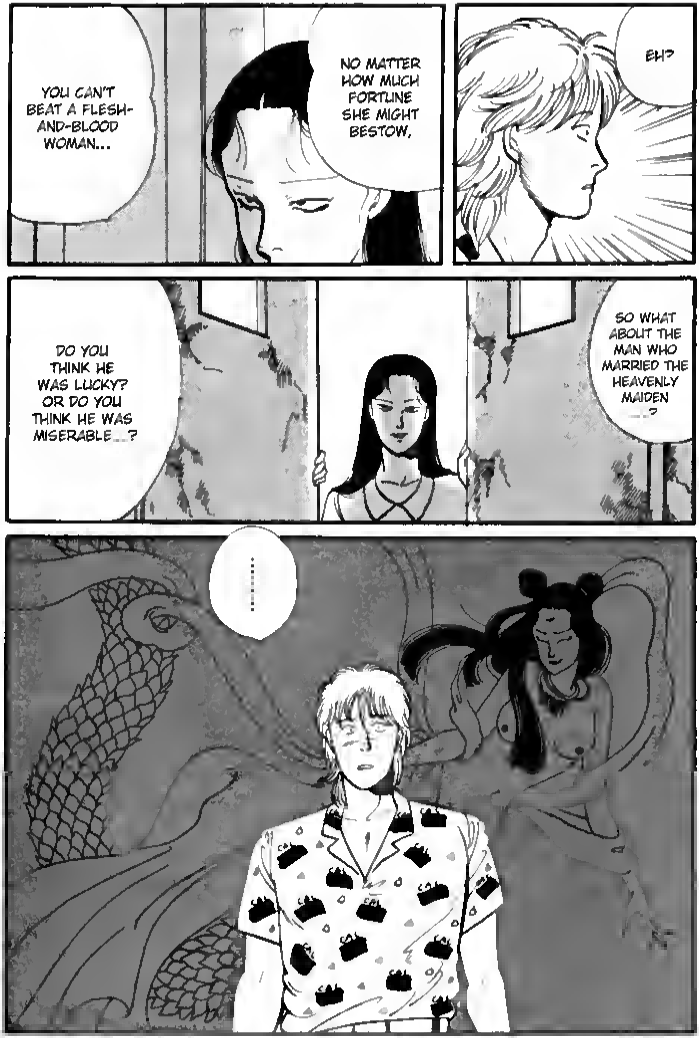

YEAH! OUR VERSION WAS A LITTLE DIFFERENT, THOUGH...
OH, "HAGOROMO". SEEMS LIKE THERE'S A VERSION OF THAT STORY NO MATTER WHERE YOU GO...
WE HAD A STORY... I THINK THE NAME WAS "THE TALE OF THE HEAVENLY WIFE".
I'VE CAUGHT UP WITH THE REST OF THE WORLD SINCE COMING HERE, BUT WHEN I WAS A KID MY FAMILY LIVED IN THE MIDDLE OF FREAKING NOWHERE...
FLOMP

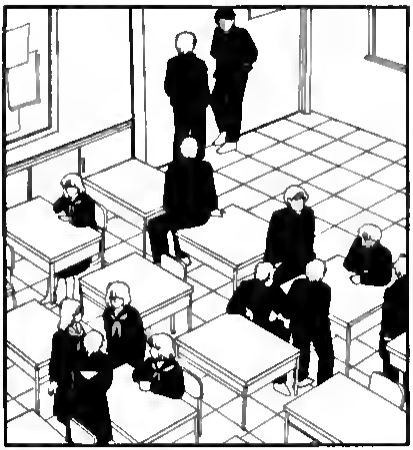
IN MOST VERSIONS OF HAGOROMO, THE CELESTIAL MAIDEN EVENTUALLY RETURNS TO HEAVEN,
BUT WHERE I'M FROM SHE STAYS ON EARTH AND MARRIES THE SON OF A SHINTO PRIEST, AND THE FAMILY LIVES HAPPILY EVER AFTER. OR SO IT GOES
THAT STORY IS ACTUALLY THE HISTORY OF THE KANOU FAMILY, ISN'T IT?


HEH HEH... I SPENT A LITTLE TIME IN THE LIBRARY BEFORE COMING HERE... PARTICULARLY THE LOCAL HISTORY SECTION
I'M SURPRISED YOU KNOW THAT...

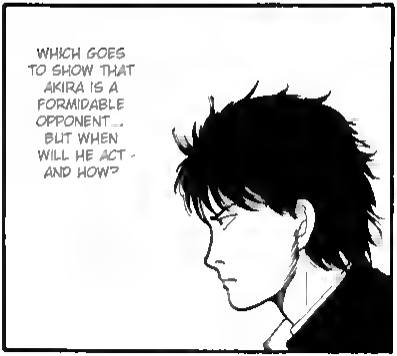

SO IT'S BEEN TOLD THAT ALL THE WOMEN OF THE FAMILY ONCE BECAME PRIESTESSES AND SERVED GOD.
WE USED TO PUT WOMEN IN THE ROLE OF PRIESTS,
THERE ARE A LOT OF FEMALE SHAMANS... PERHAPS THEY'RE MORE RECEPTIVE TO GOD...
I SEE... SO THAT'S WHY YOUR FAMILY HOLDS WOMEN IN SUCH HIGH REGARD.
THE BOYS ARE ALWAYS KICKED OUT OUR FAMILY IS ONE OF THE FEW TO REVERE WOMEN AND LOOK DOWN ON MEN.
YOU'RE RIGHT... THAT'S WHY MY FAMILY HAS HAD A MATERNAL LINEAGE FOR GENERATIONS THE OLDEST DAUGHTER BRINGS IN A SON-IN-LAW AND THEY'RE THE ONES TO INHERIT THE FAMILY'S WEALTH...
OOOH? THE MEN IN THIS FAMILY MUST FEEL AWFULLY OUT OF PLACE...
BUT ISN'T IT KIND OF NICE TO HAVE TRADITIONS AND LEGENDS LIKE THAT?
OH, NO THANK YOU! THE LAST THING I WANT TO DO IS MARRY A GOD.
IN THAT CASE, IF THE MODERN WORLD WAS MORE SIMILAR TO THE PAST, YOU MIGHT'VE BEEN A PRIESTESS.
YOU'RE SUCH A ROMANTICIST, TAKASHI-SAN
I MEAN, THINK ABOUT IT THAT STORY MEANS YOUR FAMILY DESCENDS FROM A CELESTIAL MAIDEN!

THAT FAMILY PRACTICALLY WROTE THE BOOK ON RISING TO PROMINENCE THROUGH BLOODY CONFLICTS AND "MALE SUPERIORITY".
ON THE OTHER HAND, THERE'S NOTHING ROMANTIC ABOUT THE TOONO FAMILY.
I'M TOO CURIOUS FOR MY OWN GOOD
AW, SHUCKS. HEH HEH HEH...
... YOU SURE ARE KNOWLEDGEABLE I DON'T KNOW A THING... UNFORTUNATELY.
TA-KASHI-SAN
... WHAT ABOUT YOU? WOULD YOU MARRY A CELESTIAL MAIDEN?
OH! THAT'D BE GREAT
PLEASE FEEL FREE TO TAKE YOUR TIME. HOW ABOUT SOME TEA LATER?


YOU CAN'T BEAT A FLESH-AND-BLOOD WOMAN...
NO MATTER HOW MUCH FORTUNE SHE MIGHT BESTOW,
EH?
DO YOU THINK HE WAS LUCKY? OR DO YOU THINK HE WAS MISERABLE...?
SO WHAT ABOUT THE MAN WHO MARRIED THE HEAVENLY MAIDEN...?
.....



ANOTHER QUIET DAY, HUH...


WHICH GOES TO SHOW THAT AKIRA IS A FORMIDABLE OPPONENT... BUT WHEN WILL HE ACT - AND HOW?

"I'VE DECIDED TO CHANGE STRATEGIES, RYOU."

JERK! THAT'S NOT IT...
THAT YOU MATSUMOTO...? IF IT'S MONEY YOU'RE AFTER, I DON'T HAVE ANY.
HEY, RYOU
HAAH... I SEE IT'S THAT TIME OF THE YEAR ALREADY, HUH...?
YOU SEE, AMAGINU SHRINE IS HOLDING A FESTIVAL THIS SATURDAY AND, WELL, I WAS THINKING OF GETTING A BUNCH OF PEOPLE TOGETHER.
A FESTIVAL?
HMM... LET ME THINK...
WANNA COME?
WE MEET AT 6:00 UNDER THE FIRST TORII. IF FIVE MINUTES PASS AND YOU'RE NOT THERE, WE'RE GOING IN WITHOUT YOU.
I'LL GO IF I'M IN THE MOOD... WHAT TIME?
OK

T/N Torii are the archways that mark the entrance to Shinto shrines.

TELL ME IS KANOU GOING TOO, BY ANY CHANCE?
MATSU-MOTO!
KANOU?
PROBABLY? I WOULD IMAGINE SHE'D BE THERE, SINCE OONO'S THE ONE WHO INVITED HER.
?
IT'S NOTHING SORRY FOR HOLDING YOU UP... SEE YA.
NAH...
WHY?
.....

SORRY! DID WE KEEP YOU WAITING?
YOU GIRLS ARE AWFULLY LATE!
WE WERE THINKING OF LEAVING!
HUH?! TOONO-KUN CAN'T MAKE IT?
YUP. SAID HE WAS BUSY.
HE WAS AWFULLY CURIOUS ABOUT WHETHER OR NOT KANOU-SAN WOULD BE HERE, THOUGH.
EH?
SHOULD WE HEAD IN, THEN? RYOU CALLED AND SAID HE WON'T BE COMING.
NO MATTER! MAKES NO DIFFERENCE TO US! RIGHT, MARI-CHAN?

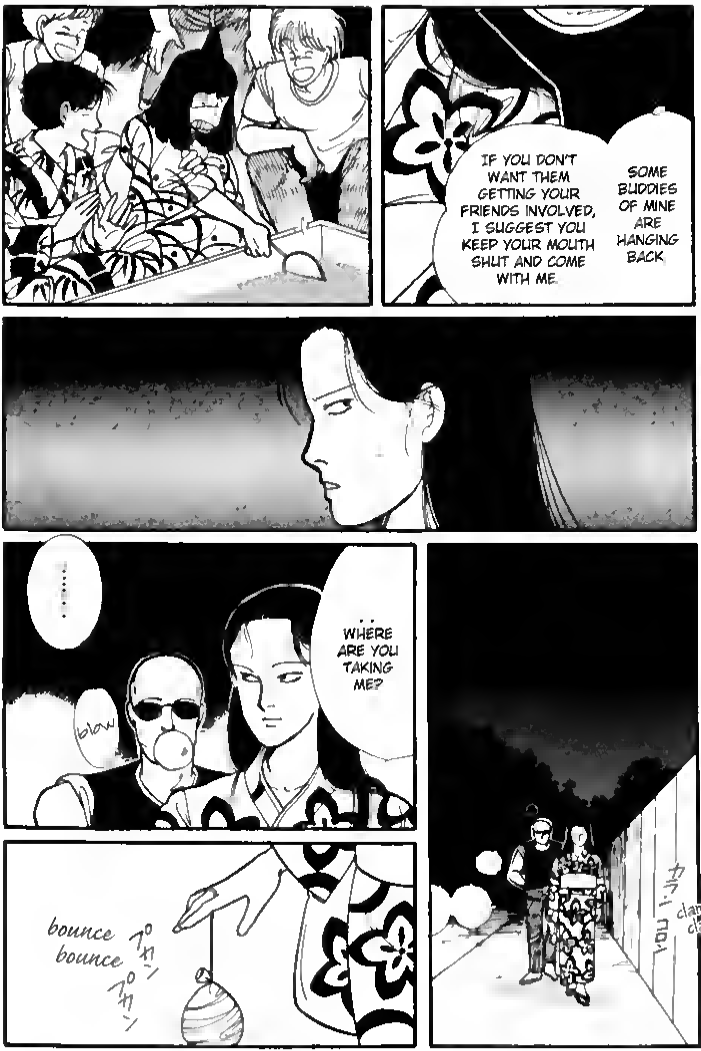
CLICK
ring ring ring
whirr whirr
ジー
ジーコ
JUST AS I SUSPECTED. EVERYONE UNDER AKIRA'S COMMAND IS OUT.
WHICH MEANS...
AKIRA!
...WHAT'S WITH THAT GET-UP?
HEHEHEHE! WHAT DO YOU THINK? ISN'T IT GREAT?

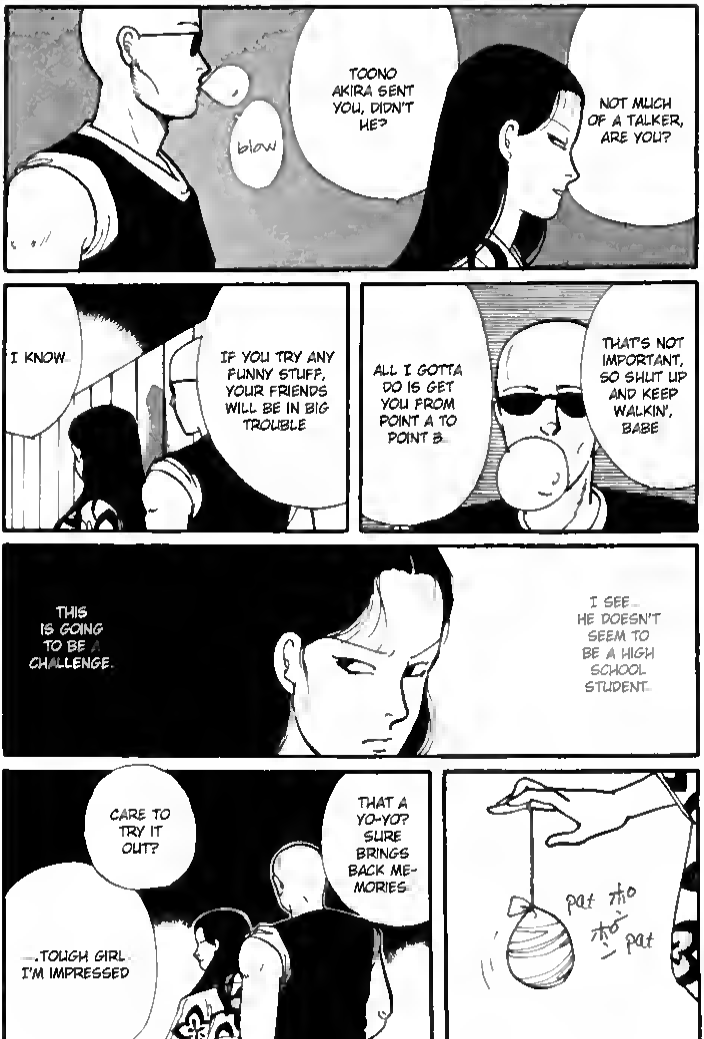
T/N: There is a Japanese form of storytelling called Rakugo where the storyteller wears a kimono/yukata sits on a mat, holds a fan, and talks.

I'M OFF TO THE FESTIVAL!
Oh, no! No!
ARE YOU GOING TO TELL ME A STORY OR WHAT?
FESTI-VAL?
CAN'T KEEP MY HOMIES WAITING
THAT SO? OH WELL, I'LL BE BACK LATER!
I'LL GET YOU SOME COTTON CANDY!
WANNA GO? IT'LL BE LIKE OLD TIMES WHEN WE WENT TOGETHER AS KIDS!
HAH! YOU HAVEN'T CHANGED A BIT FROM THOSE DAYS
close
HAH!

SWISH
ハーヤ!
HMPH...
YUP! HOW DO I LOOK?
OH, RYOU! ARE YOU GOING TO THE FESTI-VAL?
CLANG CLATTER
FLOMP

T/N: She's playing a game where you try to capture fish in a pool of water with a thin paper "net".

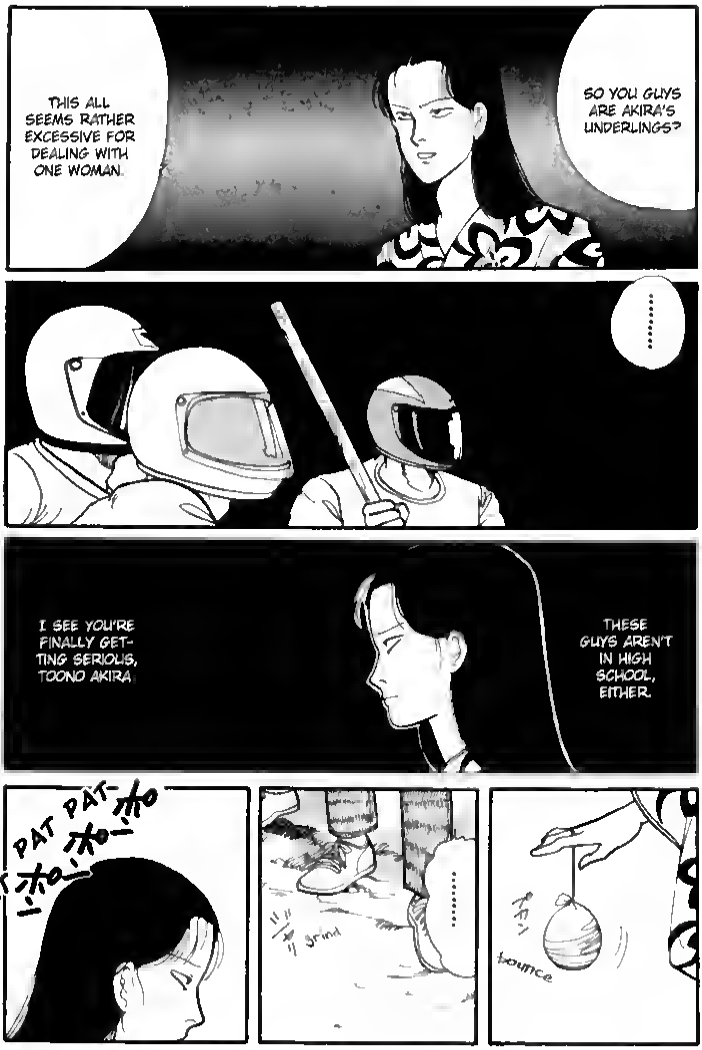

SOME BUDDIES OF MINE ARE HANGING BACK
IF YOU DON'T WANT THEM GETTING YOUR FRIENDS INVOLVED, I SUGGEST YOU KEEP YOUR MOUTH SHUT AND COME WITH ME.
...WHERE ARE YOU TAKING ME?
...
blow
bounce bounce
clang clatter


NOT MUCH OF A TALKER, ARE YOU?
TOONO AKIRA SENT YOU, DIDN'T HE?
blow
THAT'S NOT IMPORTANT, SO SHUT UP AND KEEP WALKIN', BABE
ALL I GOTTA DO IS GET YOU FROM POINT A TO POINT B.
IF YOU TRY ANY FUNNY STUFF, YOUR FRIENDS WILL BE IN BIG TROUBLE
I KNOW.
I SEE... HE DOESN'T SEEM TO BE A HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT.
THIS IS GOING TO BE A CHALLENGE.
THAT A YO-YO? SURE BRINGS BACK ME-MORIES.
CARE TO TRY IT OUT?
...TOUGH GIRL. I'M IMPRESSED
pat
pat

*See notes page for signs

.....
DON'T GET ANY IDEAS ABOUT LEAVING I'LL BE SURE TO LOCK UP BEHIND YOU
MY JOB HERE IS DONE..
HERE WE ARE WHY DON'T YOU HEAD ON INSIDE FOR ME?
THANKS ....
YOU'RE A GOOD GIRL... I DON'T KNOW WHAT YOU'VE GOTTEN YOURSELF INTO, BUT I'M PULLIN' FOR YA.
SEE YOU AROUND, TOOTS
Creak
SHINE

!
安
全

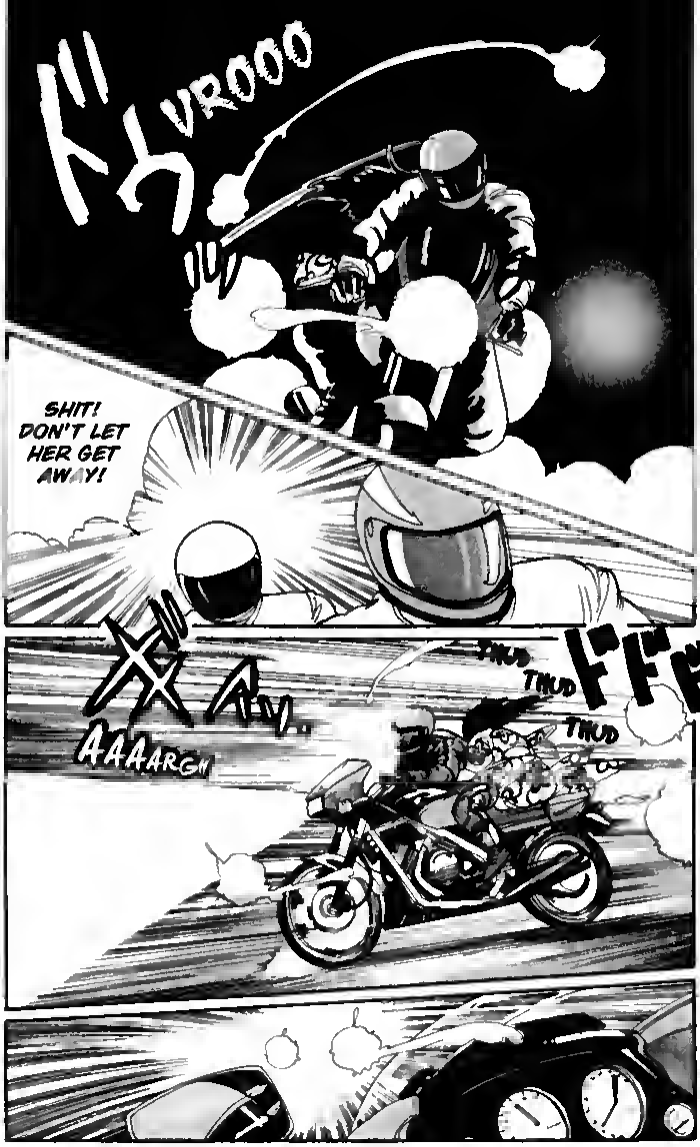

SO YOU GUYS ARE AKIRA'S UNDERLINGS?
THIS ALL SEEMS RATHER EXCESSIVE FOR DEALING WITH ONE WOMAN.
.....
THESE GUYS AREN'T IN HIGH SCHOOL, EITHER.
I SEE YOU'RE FINALLY GETTING SERIOUS, TOONO AKIRA.
PAT PAT-ポー
PAT ポー
.....
grind
bounce

ビュオオオオ
TOSS!
WHA?!

clack clack
chew chew
YOU ..
HONDA

BANG
!
!?
THERE SHE IS!
GET HER!
sprint

AFTER HER, YOU IDIOTS!
VROOM
!
RHEEE


VROOO
SHIT! DON'T LET HER GET AWAY!
THUD THUD THUD
AAAARGH

CHIRP
CHIRP
CHIRP
CHIRP
CHIRP
CHIRP
.....
.....
.....

I COULD ALSO TELL BY YOUR BUILD
EH?
I SERIOUSLY DOUBT YOU CAN PICK OUT VOICES THROUGH A HELMET
YOUR VOICE.
MORE IMPORTANTLY... WILL YOU BE ALRIGHT?
YOU'LL BE PUT IN A DANGEROUS POSITION IF AKIRA EVER FINDS OUT
...!
EVEN THOUGH YOU THREW ME DOWN PRETTY QUICKLY THAT ONE TIME

I HOPE YOU'RE RIGHT.
...IS THAT SO?
MY PLAN WENT OFF WITHOUT A HITCH
EVEN THE BIKE I CAME IN ON WAS BORROWED
HEH HEH! I'LL BE FINE! REALLY! I WAS CAREFUL.
...SO IT SEEMS
AND HE CAN BE PRETTY TOUGH WHEN IT COMES TO HIS ENEMIES
CHIRP
AKIRA DOESN'T SEE YOU AS A "WOMAN", HE SEES YOU AS AN "ENEMY"
BESIDES, YOU'RE THE ONE WHO SHOULD BE CAREFUL.
YOU HATE ME, DON'T YOU?
WHY DID YOU HELP ME?

I DECIDED IT'S CHILDISH FOR A GROWN MAN TO THINK THAT ABOUT A WOMAN
.....
ANYWAY, YOU SAVED ME... THANKS
...WELL, IT'S PRETTY LATE. I'LL TAKE YOU HOME.
IF I DON'T HEAD HOME SOON MYSELF, AKIRA WILL START TO GET SUSPICIOUS.
YEAH...

WHAT?
YEAH— I'LL GET BACK TO YOU
I SEE.. OK, GOT IT.
WHAT DID YOU SAY..?
!
.....
.....
ching

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吉祥天女②

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造本には　しゅうふん注意しておりますが、カラ落丁・乱丁などの不良品がありましたらおとりかえいたします。
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カリフォルニア物語

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